

Zambo City blasts hurt 14; probes eye terror angle

World's biggest computer firm picks RP for major call center

Cavite gov decries connivance to have him ousted

Boy kidnapped, 7 wounded in Tondo shootout

Alarm over dengue puts Cebu City in state of calamity



Hurting Mike A resumes US exile; condemns opposition

By Christine O. Avendaño

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo left last night for the United States to stay there "indefinitely," according to a press statement. The statement released by Mr. Arroyo's lawyer, Jesus Santos, also condemned the opposition for linking his client to the turnabout

HURTING/A6



Thursday, August 11, 2005 *** 36 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 244

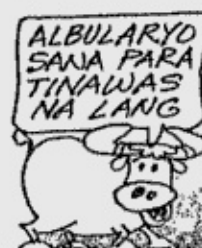
P18

Solon hits exorcism of House, seeks probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

SMARTING from what he called the "desecration" of the House of Representatives, Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin yesterday called on the ethics

SOLON/A4



website: www.inq7.net

Captain says Garci said GMA got P300M

Hearsay mode, Miriam says of testimony

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOR A WHILE, it looked like the military and certain senators would succeed in blocking the witness of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson from testifying yesterday at the Senate inquiry into "jueteng."

But when Capt. Marlon Mendoza did testify, reading from his sworn statement, his main claim amounted to repeating what he said he had heard then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano tell him about cheating in the 2004 election.

Mendoza, who said he served as Garcillano's chief security officer from April to June 2004, said he had known "some of the business transactions" of Garcillano relating to cheating.

But under administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's intense questioning, he admitted that he had no personal knowledge of whether President Macapagal-Arroyo had received P300 million from suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda or whether she had doled out the money to Garcillano or other Commission on Elections officials.

Mendoza said Garcillano had detailed him to Michaelangelo Zuce, who earlier claimed to have witnessed a payoff of Comelec officials in Ms Arroyo's house in La Vista, Quezon City, in January 2004.

CAPTAIN/A6



MUCH-AWAITED witness at the Senate "jueteng" hearing on Wednesday, Capt. Marlon Mendoza lives up to his advance publicity with his damning disclosures about President Arroyo's alleged cheating in the presidential election. Here he raises the appointment papers that designated him as former Comelec Commissioner Garcillano's chief security.

Palace dismisses Mendoza allegations

By Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG yesterday dismissed the testimony of Capt. Marlon Mendoza at the Senate "jueteng" inquiry and said it only reinforced the Palace's contention that there was a plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mendoza's testimony "will have to be

tested through other means, especially in light of the recantation of two jueteng witnesses," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters.

He was referring to whistle-blowers Richard Garcia and Abe Riva, who said they had been forced by the opposition to link the First Family to the illegal numbers racket.

Ermita said Mendoza's testimony was hearsay, as could be gleaned in Sen. Miriam

Defensor-Santiago's questioning of the witness.

"What Senator Santiago is trying to show, and let the public know, is, here is a guy talking about something he just heard," Ermita said, adding:

"Before the court, they call it hearsay."

He also said Mendoza's testimony indicated an anti-Arroyo plot: "What is happen-

PALACE/A6

Bishop runs out of 'jueteng' witnesses

By TJ Burgonio

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz yesterday said he had run out of witnesses after a provincial officer who executed a statement about an alleged payoff of poll officials at the White House in Pampanga following a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo before last year's election backed out of a plan to submit it as evidence.

The provincial election officer, Ferdinand Gerardo, said yesterday he was forced at gunpoint to write the statement in a Makati hotel in the presence of former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and ex-Solicitor General Frank Chavez.

Last night, Chavez strongly denied the allegations.

Gerardo, an election officer of Pampanga's San Simon town, said retired police general Julius Yarcia offered him money and a US visa if he testified before a Senate inquiry on "jueteng." He said he backed out of the deal for fear of his life.

Cruz, spearhead of an anti-jueteng (illegal gambling) campaign, requested the Senate to summon Yarcia to shed light on the Gerardo controversy.

"As far as I'm concerned I have no more witness. That's all that we've got. This Mr. Gerardo is not appearing anymore," said Cruz at the resumption of the Senate hearing.

Cruz's announcement of the conclusion of his efforts in the Senate coincided with a call by Archbishop Orlando Quevedo on the panel to stop its inquiry.

"Does anybody really believe that the hearings are still in aid of legislation?" he asked in a statement. "It would seem that the hearings have become a fishing expedition and a trial by publicity," said Quevedo.

Quevedo said the Senate in-

BISHOP/A4

Ampatuan heads for landslide victory

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Administration candidate Zaldy Ampatuan is headed for a landslide victory in the race for governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, according to partial canvassing results released by the Commission on Elections.

In an advisory released at noon yesterday, Comelec officials also proclaimed the winning members of the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Basilan after completing the canvassing of votes in the three provinces.

Unofficial results of Monday's elections in the ARMM, which is composed of five provinces and one city, showed Ampatuan, the Lakas-CMD gubernatorial candidate, and his running mate, Ansaruddin Abdulmarik Adiong, winning by huge margins over their rivals.

Their impending victory, however, is not without controversy. A foreign observer from the US Embassy in Manila claimed rampant

AMPATUAN/A4

Petty bickerings derail impeachment hearing

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

BICKERING over rules on seating arrangements, who would get to ask questions, and venue led to the suspension until Tuesday of the first House committee hearing yesterday on the impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Da-

tumanong, chair of the House committee on justice, yesterday suspended the hearing 30 minutes after it started so that the committee could hold an executive session to thresh out "procedural matters."

"We cannot thresh it here [in the open] because it could create animosities. So, we have to thresh it out in the executive session so that we could go on

smoothly," Datumanong said.

The committee was supposed to decide which of the three impeachment complaints against the President over vote-rigging and other charges would be recognized and whether the complaints were sufficient in form.

Datumanong suspended the hearing when tensions rose after Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico questioned the chair's ruling prevent-

ing non-committee members from asking questions. Northern Samar Rep. Harlin Abayon questioned the seating arrangement and asked that the hearing be transferred to a bigger room.

Abayon said the committee chair might not see members of the House seating at the back who wanted to ask questions.

"May we know if there are first class and second-class privileges

given to congressmen? We here are considered second-class members of this House because we are not entitled to the same privileges of those seated in front of us," said Abayon from the back.

Suplico noted that in other committee hearings, noncommittee members were allowed to join in the deliberations.

PETTY/A4

8 cities shine amid gloom of RP politics

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WITH OPTIMISTIC passengers on board, "ISA Flight 810" took off yesterday on a hopping trip around the country's "dream destinations" despite the threatening skies.

Fueled by hope for fairer weather, the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) gathered mayors from the country's most promising cities for a ride to a sunnier future, in a conference tagged "Vista ISA: A Panorama of our Dream Cities."

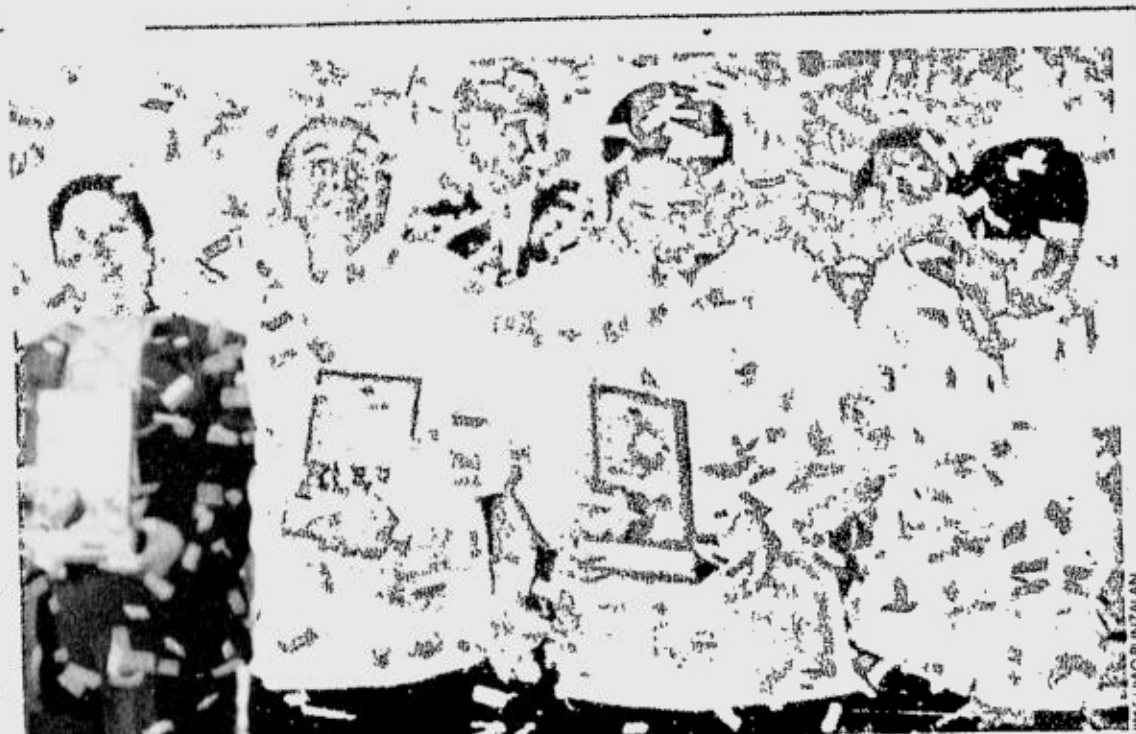
"What we are really saying is, not everything in politics is done in Manila, so there's a lot that is very positive that is being done

outside Manila," said Jesus Estanislao, chair of the ISA, a non-government think tank on good governance.

So far, the cities of San Fernando (La Union), Tagbilaran, Calbayog, Iloilo, Naga, Samal, Cebu and Marikina have fared well, as they have inched closer to goals they aimed to accomplish between five to 10 years from now based on presentations they gave before a gathering of professionals, businessmen, and the youth at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

In a show of optimism in the midst of the crisis-plagued national government, the ISA led

8 CITIES/A6



SHOWERED with confetti, mayors of the best-performing cities receive plaques as the first batch of fellows of the Institute of Solidarity in Asia committed to good governance. From left, Mayors Mary Jane Ortega, San Fernando, La Union; Rogelio Antalan, Samal City; Mel Samliento of Calbayog and Jesse Robredo of Naga City.



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy, with rains becoming frequent over the western sections. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL BOHANNEN, PDI RESEARCH/08/11/05

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Dagupan	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

BIR told to refund P39.3M to power firm

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to refund P39.3 million to the Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) which erroneously remitted the amount to the BIR as payment for the 10 percent value-added tax.

In a 10-page decision penned by Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, the First Division of SC said that PGI's supply of steam to the National Power Corp., for which it paid the tax, is exempted from the VAT and that it is entitled to get its money back.

The high court, however, said that instead of a refund, the BIR may opt to give tax credit for the same amount to PGI.

"Wherefore, the petition is hereby granted. Respondent is ordered to refund or in the alternative, issue a Tax Credit Certificate to petitioner in the sum of P39,328,775.41 as erroneously paid VAT," the SC said.

Philippine Geothermal Inc., a foreign firm licensed to explore, develop and exploit geothermal energy and resources in the Philippines, has brought the matter to court, questioning the BIR's moves to collect taxes from them.

According to the high court, it has already confirmed in previous decisions that NPC is exempted from all taxes, duties, fees, imposts, charges and restrictions of both the national and local governments and that such exemption "is broad enough to include both direct and indirect taxes."

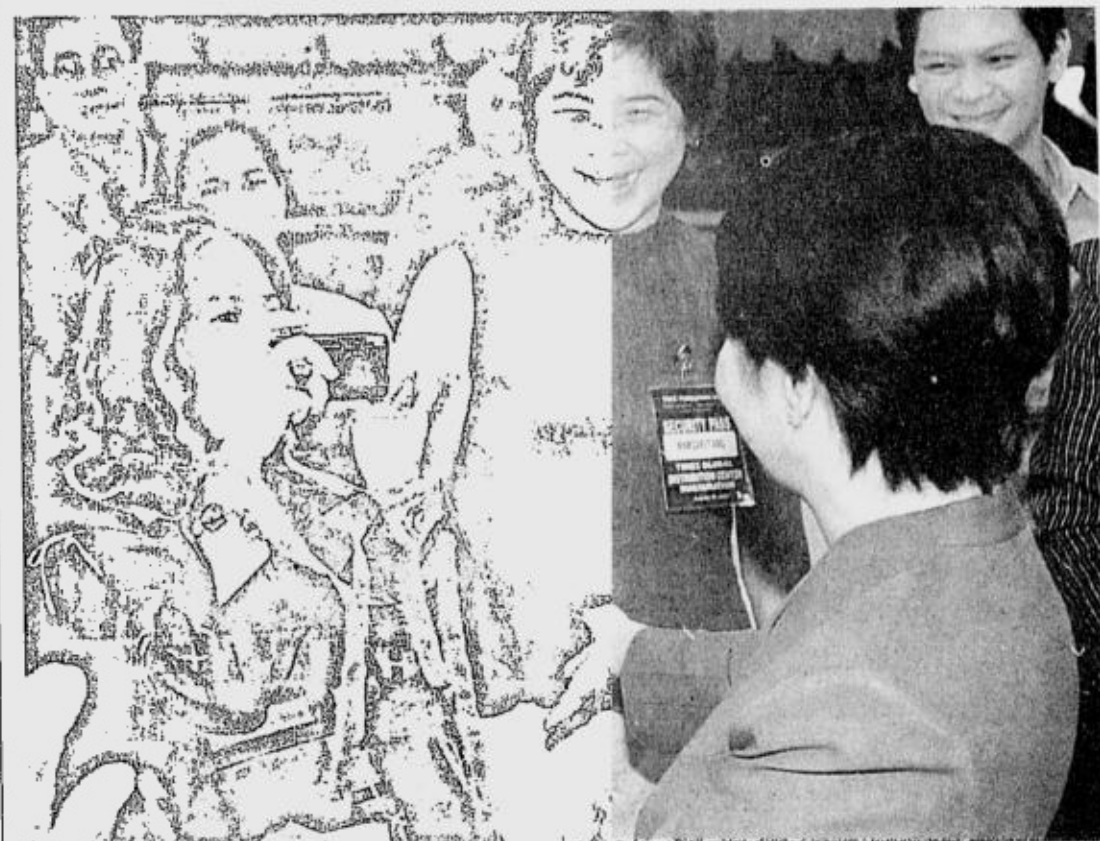
From September 1995 to February 1996, PGI billed NPC for VAT computed at 10 percent of the service fee charged for the supply of steam to the state-

owned power firm. But NPC did not pay the VAT. To avoid any possible tax deficiency, PGI remitted to the BIR P39,328,775.41, representing the amount of VAT that NPC was supposed to pay.

PGI then asked BIR for a refund but the tax agency denied the firm's petition, prompting it to bring the matter before the Court of Tax Appeals.

The CTA ruled that the geothermal firm is entitled to a tax refund but only for over P9 million since NPC refunded over P30 million of the VAT payments. The Court of Appeals subsequently affirmed the CTA ruling, prompting PGI to elevate the case to SC.

"We disagree with the CTA. In the case, the only issue is the amount of refund to be granted based on the amount of tax erroneously paid," the high court said, noting PGI paid the tax out of its own service fee. **Armand N. Nocum**



SAY CHEESE!

INQUIRER Lifestyle columnist Tessa Prieto-Valdes playfully takes a picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo during the inauguration of the Timex Global Distribution Center in Lapu-lapu City. Also yesterday, the President attended the awarding of the 10 outstanding barangay health workers at the Cebu Coliseum, the inauguration of the Mactan Cebu Export Processing Zone sewer treatment plant and the charter day celebration of the Maasin City in Southern Leyte.

EDWIN BACASAS

OFFLOADED AT NAIA

Indon with fake papers held

By Leila B. Salaverria

IMMIGRATION agents nabbed an Indonesian national bound for the United States at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Tuesday night for possessing spurious travel documents.

The Indonesian, identified as Kamal Pribadi, 32, was offloaded from Philippine Airlines flight 102 bound for Los Angeles when his passport and US visa were found to be fake.

Bureau of Immigration commissioner Alipio Fernandez said the BI has already informed the US Department of Homeland Security about Pribadi's fake US visa, which is the standard procedure followed after the discovery of such documents.

When asked if the US had shown any special interest in Pribadi, the BI commissioner said there was none.

The BI learned that Pribadi, who was traveling alone, arrived at the Naia from Jakarta via Singapore and was about to take a connecting flight to Los Angeles when he was nabbed. He bought his ticket to the US in Jakarta, said Fernandez.

Fernandez said Pribadi's fake passport was discovered while he was about to board PR flight 102. He said airlines here are scrutinizing travel documents to avoid being fined for carrying passengers with fake travel documents.

Pribadi is now detained at the BI jail in Bicutan and would face deportation proceedings.

Fernandez said Pribadi was not being held as a suspected member of the Indonesia-based Jamaah Islamiyah, stressing there was no indication or information that the foreigner was a member of the regional terror group.

"This is a simple violation of

the trafficking in humans law. Pribadi had fake travel documents, so we took him into custody. We have not received intelligence reports that he may be connected to the group. No, we're not asking him about it, but if we receive such information, we will," Fernandez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Earlier reports attributed to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales stated that 10 JI members have entered the Philippines through the southern backdoor and plan to carry out attacks here.

The JI has been identified as responsible for the series of deadly bombings in Indonesia.

Fernandez said he had yet to verify reports about the JI presence here, but has directed immigration authorities in Mindanao to keep a closer watch on undocumented Indonesians.

Zambo blasts injure 14

ZAMBOANGA — A series of powerful explosions described as terrorist attacks ripped through Zamboanga City in Mindanao on Wednesday and injured at least 14 people, officials and radio reports said.

Power was cut in the city of 700,000 immediately after the rush-hour explosions hit a mini-bus depot and a building housing a downtown restaurant and a hotel.

Residents said they heard at least two explosions at the scene of the second blast.

Police are holding at least three unidentified people for questioning, said City Mayor Celso Lobregat on local radio, describing the blasts as "terrorist" attacks.

"This is a very unfortunate incident. We are condemning the perpetrators. We are appealing to the

residents to be calm and very vigilant," he said.

"We should not show fear, we should not be terrorized," Lobregat said.

"This incident can happen anywhere. Even London was bombed twice but the city of London has fully recovered." Police said the first explosion tore through a mini-bus and a motorcycle at a depot in the commercial section of the city shortly after 7 p.m., wounding at least four people.

A second blast ripped through the second floor of a commercial building housing a popular fast-food restaurant and a small hotel in the downtown Climaco Avenue shortly after 8:00 pm and the city was blacked out.

Radio Mindanao Network reported from the scene that 14 people were taken to hospital following the blasts. No further details were immediately available.

AFP

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Dengue: DepEd bucks fumigation in schools

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) has disapproved fumigation in schools to kill mosquitoes carrying the dengue virus after the fumes released by fumigators were found to be health hazards.

DepEd Undersecretary for Finance and Administration Juan Miguel Luz said the Department of Health has warned that fumes from chemicals used in fumigation machines are hazardous to health.

Luz said that this is why the DepEd suspended classes in the Bagong Pag-Asa Elementary School until Friday since the Quezon City local government has decided to push through with the fumigation operation despite the DepEd's warning.

"Instead of putting at risk the health of school children, we decided to suspend the classes till Friday" Luz said.

He added that instead of fumigating or fogging, cleanliness should be maintained inside and outside schools.

"Maintaining cleanliness is the most effective method," Luz said. He also disclosed that he intends to issue a memorandum discouraging school officials from conducting fumigation or fogging operations.

He added that the DepEd has already dispatched engineers to the Bagong Pag-Asa Elementary School, where four students have already died from the virus, to find ways to de-clog drainage canals, which serve as breeding ground for the dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

Dr. Thelma Santos, chief of the DepEd Health and Nutrition Division, said she al-

ready visited the Bagong Pag-Asa Elementary School in Quezon City because of the reported increase in dengue cases among schoolchildren.

There are a total of 2,000 students enrolled in the school. Already, 72 cases of dengue have been reported in the area since June. Four of the victims are students of the school.

Santos said she ordered the teachers of the school to conduct a cleanliness drive to prevent the breeding of more mosquitoes carrying the dengue virus.

"I told the principal, teachers and parents of the children to make it a habit to keep their surroundings clean and to focus on areas where mosquitoes can breed, like potted plants and old tires," Santos told reporters.

She added that she has already coordinated with the Health Department of Quezon City to inspect Sitio Roque, where 90 percent of the children go to the Bagong Pag-asa Elementary School. Sitio Roque reported the most number of dengue cases in Metro Manila recently.

DepEd Officer-in-Charge Undersecretary Ramon Bacani has also ordered an intensified cleanliness drive in all public schools in the country to make sure the schools' surroundings are clean and are rid of stagnant water.

The DepEd yesterday released a memorandum ordering all regional directors to mobilize school health and nutrition personnel to spearhead the cleanliness drives.

"All regional directors are hereby instructed to mobilize all school health and nutrition personnel to disseminate information on the prevention and control of dengue fever," the memo said.

2 Pinoy peacekeepers now deserters in US

TWO Filipino soldiers who were part of the country's peacekeeping contingent to Haiti have gone AWOL (absent without leave) after a trip to the United States.

The military is now trying to track down Navy Lt. Valentin Memphin and Marines Sgt. Geoffrey Geslani in the US.

The two reportedly failed to return to their unit in Haiti after going on mission and R&R (rest and recreation) in the US, military documents said.

"It is dreadful to note that two of our peacekeepers have turned into illegal economic migrants," Col. Daniel Lucero, the most recent commander of the Haiti contingent, said

when reached for comment.

"They have given an awful name to our UN mission in Haiti. They have breached the trust that their commander have given to them," he added.

He said the Armed Forces had requested the Philippine permanent UN mission in New York to cancel the passports of the two soldiers as early as June.

Lucero and his team returned to the country last month, after an almost year-long mission in the strife-torn Caribbean island nation.

Last April, a member of the contingent, Army Staff Sgt. Antonio Batomalaque was shot dead by Haitian gangsters. **Dona Pazzibugan**

Loren wants new meeting of lawyers on poll protest

By Cynthia D. Balana

LAWYERS of former Sen. Loren Legarda have asked for another preliminary conference with the counsel of Vice President Noli de Castro to expedite the resolution of her electoral protest.

Sixto Brillantes and Jesus Casila, counsels for Legarda, told the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, that there was a need to immediately discuss the immediate retrieval of ballot boxes from Congress to formally start the process of retabulation of election returns and certificates of canvass for the 2004 vice presidential contest.

In their preconference brief earlier, Brillantes pointed out that De Castro's lawyers made suggestions that would only lead to a "tedious" and prolonged process which would further delay the adjudication of the case.

Complicated procedure

He said Legarda's legal team would like to clarify and thresh out some "unclear and disturbing recommendations and suggestions" made by the protestee, which Legarda believed may either be totally unnecessary, inapplicable and/or founded on some erroneous concepts.

Brillantes and Casila also declared that while they were proposing a simplified system of recounting and retabulating the votes cast, De Castro's lawyers were suggesting a more complicated one.

"There appears to be some glaring conflicts' in the proposals of the parties which would reveal that while protestant [Loren] wants matters expedited, protestee [De Castro] seems bent on prolonging the process, contrary to the protestee's lawyers' constant public pronouncements of his supposed desire to expedite the entire process," they said.

Dismissed

The former senator filed her protest against De Castro on July 23, 2004, together with the late Fernando Poe Jr., her running mate for the presidency in the May 10, 2004 election under the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP). However, Poe's protest was dismissed in December following his death.

The first preliminary conference of lawyers on the matter was held only last July 12, 2005.

During the conference, Legarda asked the PET to take custody of the contested ballot boxes which are in the custody of the House of Representatives.

However, De Castro's lawyers objected and filed a motion to dismiss, prompting the PET to require both sides to submit their respective briefs on the issue.

No German visas for 50 RP delegates to World Youth Day

MANILA—Germany has denied visas to at least 50 young Filipinos wanting to attend next week's World Youth Day, a Catholic festival in Cologne, a church official said Wednesday.

The official for the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Commission on Youth told AFP on condition of anonymity that the church was "very disappointed" with the decision.

He said 327 delegates from the Philippines would be attending the event which begins on Aug. 15.

"Initially the German government had denied 100 Filipinos visas but when we appealed, 43 were given visas," the spokesperson said.

A German embassy spokesperson referred queries to her foreign ministry.

An estimated 800,000 young people from across the globe are expected to descend on Cologne for World Youth Day.

The delegation from the Philippines will consist of 40 priests and young Catholics from around the country.

It is understood that those not granted visas were from the Visayas and Mindanao.

"We find it very strange that these young people have been singled out by the German government. Despite repeated requests the church has not been given any reason why their visas were turned down," the official said.

AFP

RP sailor missing in sea collision off Japan

TOKYO—A Filipino sailor was missing in Japanese waters Wednesday after his cargo ship hit another vessel and sank, the coast guard said.

Fourteen other crew members from

Cyprus-registered Asia Concerto were rescued after it crashed off the coast of western Yamaguchi prefecture at 6:00 a.m., a coast guard spokesperson said.

"We are searching for a Filipino sailor

who went missing in the accident," the spokesperson said, adding that the Asia Concerto was leaking oil and other fuel.

The 4,458-ton ship had collided with the 4,314-ton South Korean-registered Pine

Pia, whose 15 crew were safe and had rescued the sailors from the sunken vessel.

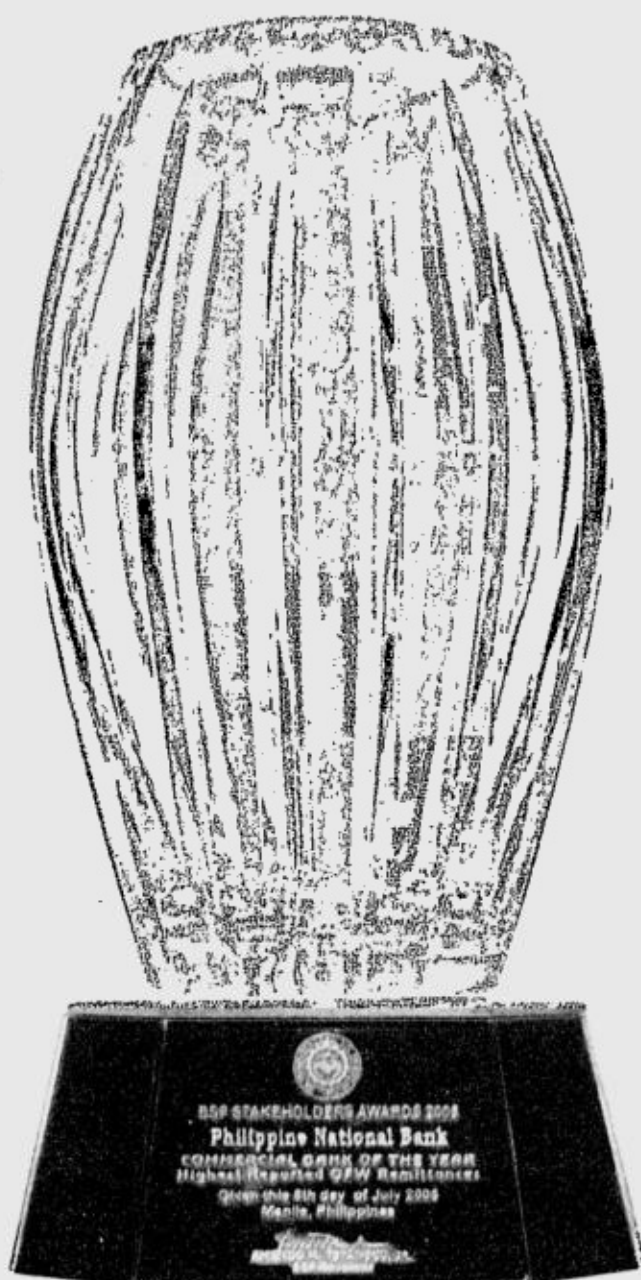
The Japan Coast Guard dispatched nine vessels and one helicopter to search for the missing sailor.

AFP

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Petty bickerings derail impeach hearing

From page A1

During the previous hearings on the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and an election official, opposition members bewailed that Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta was allowed to participate even if he was not a member of any of the five committees conducting the investigation.

But Datumanong stood his ground, saying that only regular and ex-officio members of the committee could participate.

"This is a committee on impeachment. It is not any ordinary committee of the House. This is pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution and not everybody can participate," he said.

Buying time for President

Opposition lawmakers and former members of the Cabinet scored the abrupt suspension of the hearing.

"All of these are really designed to buy time for the President," said Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, impeachment spokesperson for the minority. "But the irony is that the more time they (administration officials) buy, through the means that they use, the more outraged people become."

Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, a former social welfare secretary, and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, lead impeachment prosecutor, questioned the decision of Datumanong to suspend the hearing and to hold an executive session.

Zamora said the hearing might have been suspended because the administration was

spooked by the presence of some members of the so-called "Hyatt 10" at the hearing. The Hyatt 10 refers to former members of the Cabinet and heads of agencies who resigned on July 8 and asked the President to do the same.

Soliman ready to testify

Soliman said members of the Hyatt 10 were ready to testify before the committee.

"The public has the right to know how they're going to discuss at the committee level the rules and regulations of this impeachment process. Otherwise, everything will be suspect," Soliman told reporters.

She attended the hearing with Ging Deles, former presidential adviser on the peace process, and Imelda Nicolas, former National Anti-Poverty Commission chair.

Zamora said he was saddened by the suspension, noting that proimpeachment lawmakers were prepared to prove that the amended impeachment complaint was sufficient in form.

Hearing must be public

He said the committee rules required that the hearings be held in public. "It is also required that there must be specific reasons—national security and public interest—for holding an executive session."

After the executive session, Datumanong told reporters that committee members, both regular and ex-officio, and the complainants

and endorsers of the impeachment complaint would be allowed to participate.

"But those who are not members of the committee will not be able to vote. They can participate in the debates only," he said.

Datumanong said the hearings next week would be held on Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"We decided accordingly with the need of the committee to work within 60 session days that is given to it by the Constitution," he said.

Unprecedented

In his opening remarks, Datumanong said the referral of three impeachment complaints to the committee was unprecedented.

"Our rules on impeachment procedure do not provide a clear answer to this situation. This makes our task difficult and we will be compelled to feel our way around," he said.

Because of its unprecedented nature, Datumanong said somebody might question the committee's proceedings before the Supreme Court. "The task is difficult but the committee must make a decision and perhaps set a precedent in this kind of situation."

Datumanong said the committee would first have to decide whether to consolidate the three complaints or treat them separately.

Yesterday, the President's legal counsel filed another motion with the House secretary general, this time to junk the amended and oth-

er supplemental impeachment complaints filed after June 28.

Ms Arroyo's counsel

Pedro Ferrer said only the June 27 impeachment complaint lodged by Oliver Lozano and the June 28 supplemental complaint were allowed under the one-year ban imposed by the Constitution against the initiation of a second impeachment complaint.

Ferrer said the other complaints were "constitutionally impermissible and procedurally infirm," referring to the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh supplemental complaints lodged by Lozano from June 29 to July 21, the complaint for impeachment filed by lawyer Roy Lopez and the amended complaint dated July 25 endorsed by 41 lawmakers.

With the impeachment complaint off to an inauspicious start, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President and her men were giving their all to prevent history from repeating itself.

'Anything can happen'

He said "anything can happen" if the impeachment case was elevated to the Senate just like what happened to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

If the opposition succeeded in elevating the impeachment complaint to the Senate, Ermita said "this is not only a disappointment but alarming." Unlike in the House, Ms Arroyo has very little support in the Senate.

For the complaint to be transmitted to the Senate for trial, it must get the support of 79 House members. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Ampatuan heads for landslide victory

From page A1

fraud in the election.

"It's not honest. There was cheating based on my personal observation," Steven Edminster, one of the 20 observers sent by the US Embassy to Mindanao, told the INQUIRER.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos told Radio dxMS here that, barring undue circumstances, the poll body would likely proclaim the duly elected regional governor and vice governor today or tomorrow.

In the Comelec advisory, Ampatuan garnered 482,213 votes; Mahid Mutilan (Ompia), 177,769; and Ibrahim Paglas III (Liberal Party), 61,257.

Adiong got 388,988 votes; Hatta Dimaporo, 112,266; and Ismael Abubakar, 94,439.

Similar trends

Partial, unofficial results released by Catholic-run radio stations and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) showed Ampatuan with more than 509,000 votes; Mutilan, 177,248; and Paglas, 56,280.

The figures were initial summaries of the Comelec tabulations, which were 91 percent complete, of election results from Marawi City, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, and the island-provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Catholic radio stations dxMM in Jolo, Sulu, and dxGD in Bongao, capital town of Tawi-Tawi, reported that Ampatuan and Adiong were leading in the tabulations of the provincial boards of canvassers.

At 4 p.m. yesterday, Armando Velasco, chair of the provincial board of canvassers in Maguindanao, proclaimed the six winning assemblymen: (first district)—Jackson Bandila, 107,657; Roonie Sin-suat, 98,569; and Bongarsa Tomawis Jr., 78,922; (second district)—Khadafeh Mangu-dadatu, 147,817; Umrah Datumanong, 134,949; and Pike Mentang, 129,044.

In the first district of Lanao del Sur, the proclaimed winners were Suhaylah Salic, 100,559; Samer Salic, 91,404; and Paisalin Tago, 90,175. In the second district, the proclaimed winners were Saaduddin Alauya Jr., 64,220; Yasser Balindong, 51,324; and Hosni Macapodi, 46,821.

Proclaimed assemblymen in Basilan were Rajam Akbar, 60,314; Hatimil Hassan, 50,601; and Bonnie Balamo, 39,410.

100-percent vote

Ampatuan recorded a runaway victory in his home province of Maguindanao, garnering more than 200,000 votes out of the 334,000 registered voters, according to chief canvasser Velasco.

Many voting precincts, mostly in the second district, had a "100-percent vote for Ampatuan."

Lawyers from the opposition expressed doubts over the result, saying it was statistically improbable.

But Abalos said the outcome was inevitable, adding that it was natural for candidates to get zero in areas controlled by their opponents.

In Muslim communities, he explained, cultural and tribal bonding is so strong that they decide or move as one unit following the wishes of their recognized leader.

In the case of Maguindanao, Abalos said, the Ampatuans are lording it over the province, controlling most of the 28 towns due to intermarriages, religious and cultural ties and political patronages.

Edminster, one of the foreigners monitoring the elections, would not elaborate on his observation of poll irregularities.

"I could not divulge everything because it won't be proper for me. We were sent to Maguindanao only to observe the process of elections in the

region and in return learn from it," he said.

Impressed

But Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuazon, who is in charge of Maguindanao, said some observers from Britain and Canada were impressed at the peace and order situation.

"I talked to them and they relayed to me the election rolled on peacefully. They said not a single election-related incident happened in Maguindanao," Tuazon said.

On Tuesday, Muslimin Sema, secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front and mayor of Cotabato City, alleged that board of election inspectors in MNLF communities filled up blank ballots during the elections.

"The MNLF boycott was a success. Only about 15 percent was the turnout. However, just the same, the ballots were consumed. This is the dirtiest polls ever in the region," Sema said.

He said ballots were filled up in Barangay Bago Inged, Datu Sinsuat town in Maguindanao.

But Abalos said Sema could have made such claim "because he saw that some opponents of Ampatuan got zero in Maguindanao."

"When we distributed the elections materials in Maguindanao, we were looking for watchers of some gubernatorial candidates, like those for Mahid Mutilan, but we saw nothing," the Comelec chief said.

"Now, what can we do if there will be no one willing to serve as watchers for them? *Kanya-kanyang diskarte lang yan* (It's up to them to remedy the situation)," he added.

Sulu election

In Sulu, Rep. Hussin Amin said the election was generally dishonest and not credible because "dagdag-bawas (vote-shaving and padding) was rampant."

Amin also said when the precincts were closed at 3 p.m. on Monday, some teachers doctored the remaining ballots in favor of their candidates.

He said he would submit evidence to substantiate his allegations to the Comelec.

Former Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan agreed.

"This election is just foolishness and it seems that we are fooling ourselves," Tan said.

"It was a very fraudulent conduct of election except that it was conducted peacefully and that component on the matter of honesty and order for the purpose of choosing the leader was a failure. We have not chosen our rightful leader in a proper way because the system was a failure," he added.

Marawi

In Marawi, a civil society group monitoring the election has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to nullify the results and conduct another balloting.

Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the Islamic Movement for Electoral Reforms and Good Governance (IMERGG), said the election was indeed peaceful but "it is just another dirty election" in the history of the country.

"It is heavily marred by irregularities," said Dalidig, former chair of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in Lanao del Sur.

He was responsible for exposing alleged vote-shaving and vote-padding operations in the province to favor Ms Arroyo in the 2004 presidential race.

'Vote-buying rampant'

Dalidig pointed to "rampant vote-buying" documented by the IMERGG in all 39 towns, "with mostly mayors involved."

He said that the local executives used barangay officials in distributing money, although the group had not yet identified the candidates or parties involved.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Jeoffrey Maitem, Ed General, Ryan D. Rosaura and Anthony S. Allada and Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Solon hits exorcism of House, seeks probe

From page A1

committee to investigate the "exorcism" of the chamber.

Locsin said the ethics committee should investigate members of the House who were involved in the exorcism rite on Tuesday because the ancient Catholic rite was abused.

He said the rite implied that lawmakers, who have not signed the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, were "demons."

Locsin said the rite was "a mockery" of religious belief and the "institutional honor essential to the House."

Garlic, too

Fr. Robert Reyes, popularly known as "the running priest," and Fr. Raul "Puti" Enriquez led Akbayan party-list members in the exorcism, burning incense and sprinkling holy water on pictures of lawmakers at the House main lobby.

Akbayan members brought along wreaths made of garlic to expel "evil spirits." In Philippine folklore, garlic is used to drive away evil spirits.

"By no stretch of the imagination, and for no reason but a supercilious malice and a mocking spirit could an exorcism be performed on

any but the Evil One and for any purpose but the cure of a genuine possession," Locsin told his colleagues in plenary session.

"Those who have not or will not sign the impeachment [complaint] can no more be described as demons, theologically speaking, than those who signed or will sign can be called angels, by any stretch of the imagination," he added.

Marxist-Leninist

Locsin then asked: "How would this House feel if vandals could freely roam its halls, painting graffiti on its walls and drawing moustaches on its portraits?"

"I am a firm believer of the Catholic religion and all its rites. I deeply resent the mockery that was made of one of its key rites to score a picayune political point," he said.

"I deeply resent and take the strongest exception to the misuse, not to say abuse, of a religious rite pertaining to any religion—not least by those who practice no religion at all," he added.

Locsin said Reyes and Enriquez were "flanked by the votaries of no faith—except Marxism-Leninism—the enemy of religion."

"Calumny may be the basis for an impeachment, for all we know, but

blasphemy never. This House cannot censure misguided priests but it can instruct its members not to spit in the soup that we all have to eat," he said.

Locsin said that those who have yet to decide whether to sign the impeachment complaint could not be branded as "demons" because copies of the complaint were distributed to members of the House only on Tuesday. They also have yet to see the evidence against the President.

"And yet two priests were invited to exorcise them for lacking that discernment that they already possess in superabundance," he said.

Figurative statement

But Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, who joined the exorcism rite, said it was only a "figurative expression" of her party's desire to "see to it that the impeachment process is insulated from negative forces of vested interests."

She said that her group also prayed for all lawmakers—regardless of their position on impeachment—and that the exorcism was not meant to insult those who are still undecided.

"Lawmakers need not feel insulted if they are insulated from these

Bishop runs out of 'jueteng' witnesses

From page A1

quiry had only resulted in "greater mistrust and lesser credibility" for those who have been accused and their accusers.

On Aug. 5, Gerardo and another poll official, Gilbert Palogan of Hagonoy, Bulacan, announced that Yarcia had tried to coax them to testify against Ms Arroyo at her impeachment trial. They said after they rejected the offer of P5 million and US visas they received death threats and went to the National Bureau of Investigation for protection.

Summon Yarcia

Cruz proposed that Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., who co-chairs the Senate inquiry with Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, invite Yarcia to the next hearing.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson also requested Villar to subpoena Gerardo to clarify "the conflicting versions of his affidavit and his press statements." Lacson said the administrator of Clark Air Base in Pampanga should be summoned as well.

"Because if the President was around or was in the White House then there could be a record in the logbook that she indeed went to Clark Air Base," he said.

Villar said that both requests would be studied by his committee on public order and illegal drugs and Lapid's committee on games, amusement and sports.

In his affidavit, Gerardo said that he and five other provincial officials of the Commission on Elections were gathered by a Pampanga may-

or for a meeting at the White House on the night of May 7, 2004—three days before the balloting.

During the meeting, Ms Arroyo told the group that she was banking on them to win in the election, Gerardo said. After the meeting, Ms Arroyo, two Pampanga mayors and Lilia Pineda, wife of suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda left and went to an office at the White House. Hours later, a man surfaced and handed each participant P20,000.

Jueteng-election links

Cruz apologized to Gerardo over his decision to go public with his affidavit or "narrative" as well as a video which shows him giving assurances to two other persons that he would speak the truth on the White House meeting.

"Sorry, I mean no offense. I just want jueteng to be stopped because I know jueteng and elections are very intimately linked. That's why the people need to know about these things and see how evil jueteng is," he said.

Gerardo had reportedly been miffed by the archbishop's decision to disclose contents of his affidavit and video.

So far, Cruz said he was satisfied with the Senate's inquiry into the extent of the interplay of jueteng and electoral fraud.

"That's enough. Besides, Zuce has come out with his testimony," he said, referring to Michaelangelo Zuce, a former Palace opera-

tive who had testified on payoffs involving Ms Arroyo, regional election officials and Lilia Pineda in the President's home in Quezon City in January 2004.

In a press conference yesterday, Gerardo rejected Cruz's claim that he had written his statement voluntarily.

Gerardo recounted that Yarcia and his men fetched him from his house and brought him to Makati Shangri-La Hotel on July 26. There, he said he was brought to a room where he met De Villa and Chavez, along with former Election Commissioner Ralph Lantion.

"Yarcia and De Villa's aide then cocked a gun at me, forcing me to copy a prepared statement onto a yellow paper," Gerardo said. He said he remembered reading the words "White House" and "President Arroyo" from the statement.

Under Chavez direction

Gerardo also showed reporters a piece of paper purportedly containing Chavez's handwriting, instructing him what to include in his statement.

"Chavez had instructed me to make a detailed statement, even directing me to get another witness to corroborate my allegations," Gerardo said. He said he went home after promising he would cooperate.

"I did not say anything about this incident during our press conference at the Commission on Elections last week because I did not want to blow things out of

proportion," Gerardo said, adding he decided to speak out when he read about Cruz's allegations in the paper.

Gerardo stressed that he had never met Cruz nor talked to him before.

Bishop politicking

"Cruz, who should only be involved in ecclesiastical affairs, is obviously politicking," Gerardo said, challenging the archbishop to a debate "on whether they had really met in the past."

"I came out to protect my family's dignity and the image of the institution I work for," Gerardo said.

Also yesterday, Mayors Marino Morales of Mabalacat town and Carmelo Lazatin of Angeles City said no meeting between them, Ms Arroyo and five Pampanga election officers took place at the White House.

Temie Lambino, Pampanga election supervisor, also denied meeting the President and the mayors and receiving bribes to make Ms Arroyo win in her home province.

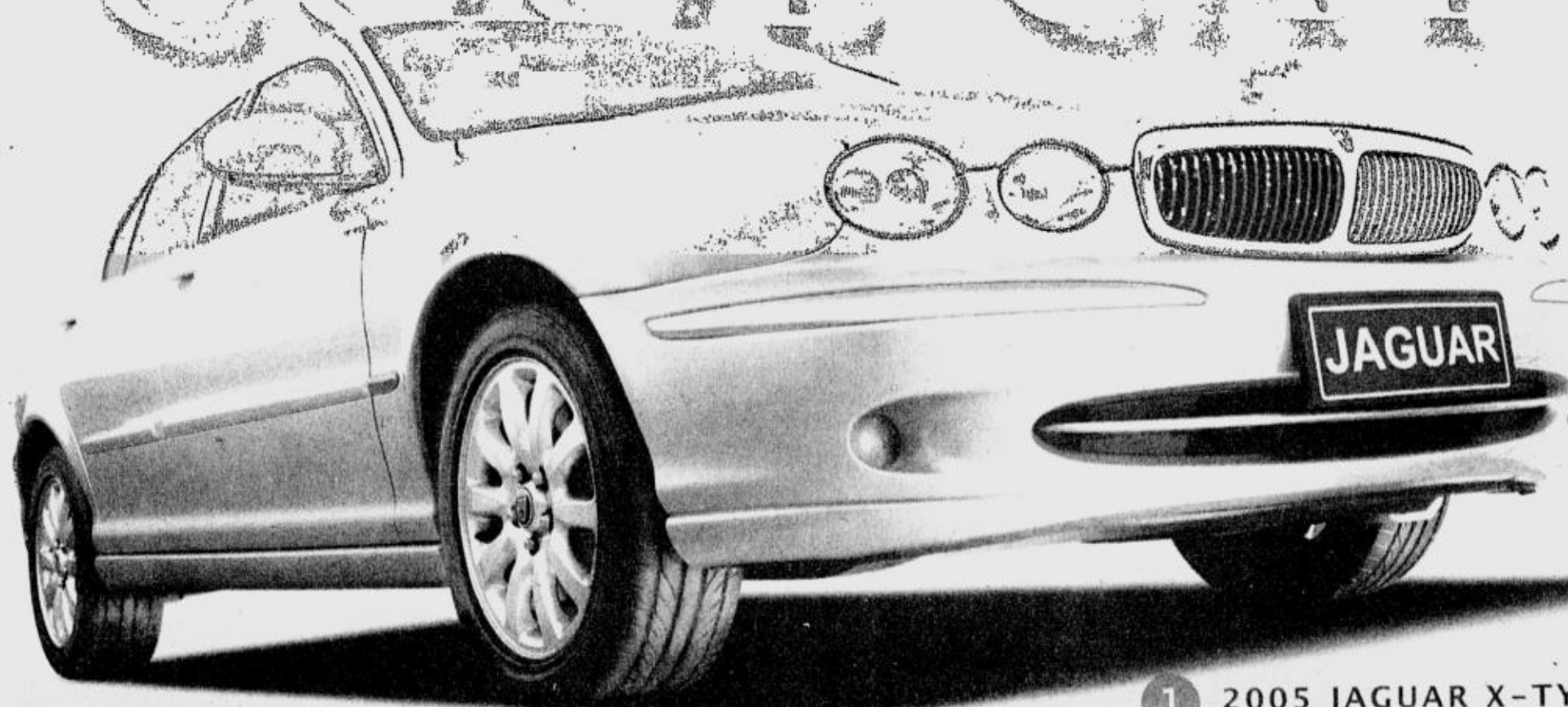
Lambino said he was not the recipient of P3 million, two "imported and expensive" vehicles and a "mansion" in Angeles City, as alleged in Gerardo's affidavit.

"I don't even own a house. Would you tell me where it is located so I could move in there?" Lambino said.

With reports from Margaux C. Ortiz, Christian V. Esguerra and Jun Malig and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

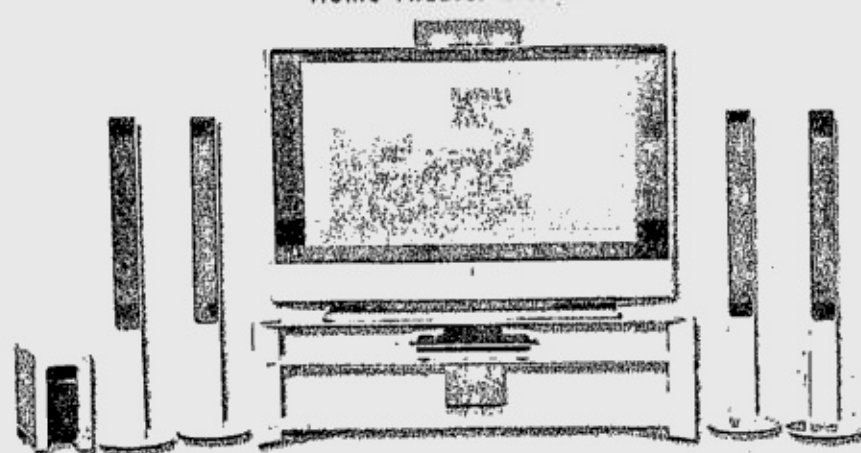
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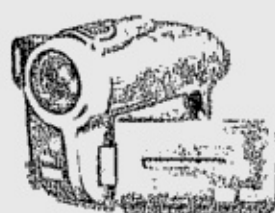


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15	Sony Ericsson S700i mobile phones
30	Sony Cybershot DSC-T7 digital cameras
50	Apple iPod Photo 30GB

• The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than October 31, 2005. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Ad.

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Signature

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• Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 11)

• Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy.

• Original copy of the notification telegram from Philip Morris.

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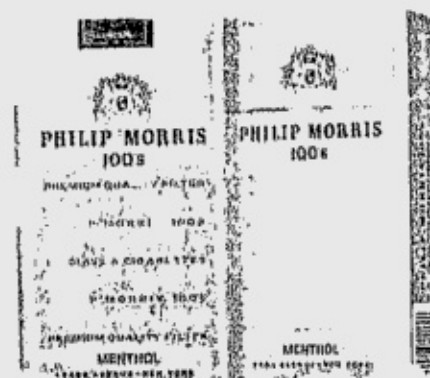
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Captain says Garci said GMA got P300M

From page A1

Zuce, who shook hands with Mendoza at the start of the hearing, confirmed this as well as Mendoza's revelation that Comelec director Rey Sumalipao and another director, an Attorney Astala, had received "large amounts of cash" from Zuce as part of the alleged Garcillano-led operation to rig the polls for Ms Arroyo.

Mendoza's arrival at the Senate was reportedly secured by Senate security personnel after a threat of arrest by the military.

He reportedly left all his uniforms in his quarters at Camp Aguinaldo and had to order one made for his five-hour appearance at the Senate.

Relevance

Santiago and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile took up the first minutes of the hearing to question Mendoza's presence.

They expressed doubt that his testimony would be relevant to the jueteng inquiry and said it should be part of the impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo at the House. (Story on Page A1.)

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the committee on public order conducting the joint inquiry with the committee on games, prevailed upon Enrile and Santiago to allow Mendoza to testify.

"I'm not questioning the truth of these witnesses, but I think the truth ought to be presented in another forum, and that is the impeachment case," Enrile said.

Enrile, who claims to be independent opposition, resented Lacson's response when the latter said he disagreed with the "majority" senators.

"The prejudicial question of Senator Enrile is premature until and unless we hear the testimony of Captain Mendoza," Lacson said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. agreed with Lacson but also with Santiago's point that a termination date for the inquiry must be set.

Santiago said: "I do not object to the testimony of this witness who is already here. I do not wish to suppress any evidence, but let us try to fix a certain date in the future for terminating these hearings because the impeachment case is already upon us and we do not want to get into legal complications."

Enrile later withdrew his ob-

jection, saying: "People might think that we're trying to ... I've no reason to suppress the testimony of anybody."

He and Santiago were among the senator-judges at President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial who voted against the opening of a second set of bank documents. That vote triggered a walkout of the prosecutors and led to Edsa II.

Drinking spree

Mendoza, a member of Military Intelligence Unit 23 of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) until he was put on "floating" status and detailed to Garcillano, was accompanied by two lawyers.

He said he vividly recalled what Garcillano told him in Naga City in Camarines Sur, at the start of his assignment: "On one occasion while we were having a drinking spree with ... Garcillano and other Comelec officials in that area, I distinctly heard ... Garcillano telling us that Bong Pineda already gave P300 million to support President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's success in the election."

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER last night, Pineda counsel Roberto A. Abad said his client "denie[d]" having contributed any amount to the election of Ms Arroyo.

Abad said Pineda, "an ordinary businessman," neither spoke with Ms Arroyo nor saw her in person "before, during or after the 2004 election."

Mendoza's allegation about the P300 million is "pure hearsay" and "gossip that is food for drunken men," Abad said.

'Vital role'

Mendoza recalled Garcillano as saying that the latter "play[ed]" a vital role in the election.

He said he could not stomach the supposed cheating done in Mindanao but could do nothing but wait for a chance to tell what he knew.

"I was a witness to some business transactions of ... Garcillano, particularly in the exercise of his official functions, being his chief security officer," Mendoza said.

He said he was also aware that Garcillano "personally report[ed]" to GMA in Malacañang.

Mendoza said Garcillano asked him on May 11, 2004, to serve as security officer for Zuce, a King James (George Go King aka King George) who is said to be Ms Ar-

royo's friend, a certain Butch (Paquingan) who is a consultant of Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, and a Jun L. Bamboo of the Presidential Management Services staff.

'Missions'

He said that when he arrived in Cagayan de Oro thinking he would serve Garcillano, he was surprised to meet Zuce. He said he met Zuce at the Diamond Hotel in April 2000 during a breakfast meeting between Garcillano and Palace officials, including Paquingan.

Mendoza's testimony included alleged incidents in Cagayan de Oro, Lanao del Norte, Cotabato City and Iligan City.

In Lanao del Norte, he said he saw Zuce give Sumalipao a "large amount of cash in an envelope."

Zuce confirmed this but said he could not recall the amount involved.

He said he heard Garcillano phone Zuce several times to ask if the latter had "done his mission."

At Camp Awang in Maguindanao where the final canvassing was being conducted, Mendoza said he saw Zuce talking with a Comelec director (whom Zuce identified as Attorney Astala), and giving him "cash in envelopes."

He said a certain Ivan, an employee in Garcillano's office, was there to "assist in the manipulation of election results in favor of GMA."

Mendoza said that when he asked how Ms Arroyo was faring in Cotabato, Ivan said: "Sir, we are doing something about that."

He said he then phoned his classmate, a Capt. Jaime Datuin, and told him that "there was ongoing rampant cheating being made by the group of GMA."

"I almost cried while I was talking to my classmate, but he told me, 'We cannot do anything at this time. Be careful,'" Mendoza said.

'Bags of money'

Mendoza named two other enlisted personnel—a Capt. Valentino R. Lopez, aka Val or Cupid, of the Army and a Sergeant Lagura—who were supposedly assigned to Garcillano and who, he said, played "a very sensitive role in the distribution of bags of money as they themselves were the ones who manually carried [these]."

He said Lopez was a classmate of his who recommended him to

Garcillano when he was on "floating" status at the Isafp. He said Lopez was a nephew of Garcillano's.

Santiago asked why Mendoza waited for almost a year to divulge Garcillano's illegal activities.

The question drew a loud sigh from Mendoza. He said he was tired of explaining the cheating and even asked a pastor, Jojo Gonzales, to tell presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva that the latter had been cheated.

He said he had voted for Villanueva, but Santiago cut him off.

Not a witness

Santiago elicited from Mendoza that he did not personally witness Pineda giving money to Ms Arroyo, or the President distributing cash envelopes to any person aside from Garcillano.

She asked him about his supposed activities, including his alleged distribution of anti-Arroyo CDs while attending an advanced engineering course at Camp Tinio in Nueva Ecija.

But Mendoza said: "I was talking to my classmates and some upperclassmen said that there was really cheating in the last election. When I got the [Hello Garci] tape, I informed them that was my boss."

He denied having drafted the anti-Arroyo class manifesto, sending out anti-Arroyo e-mails, or attending a meeting of junior officers at the Manila Polo Club on Jan. 9, 2004.

But Santiago lectured Mendoza on the constitutional requirement for the military to be politically neutral.

"If you wanted to attack your commander-in-chief, you should have resigned," she told him.

Love of country

Asked by Sen. Jamby Madrigal if he knew the price he had to pay for his action, Mendoza said: "For love of country, I'm willing to sacrifice my career and my future."

Pimentel asked him if senators might later see him on TV recanting and apologizing to Ms Arroyo. "No, Your Honor, what I am doing is for the country," he said.

But when interviewed later by reporters who asked for his message to Ms Arroyo, he begged her pardon— "Mahal na Pangulo, pasensya na po kayo"—and said he was only telling the truth. With a report from TJ Burgonio

8 cities shine ...

From page A1

mayors of the eight selected cities in a report on how their cities have progressed since a year ago, when they adopted ISA's Public Governance System (PGS).

The PGS is a performance measurement tool that was a public sector adaptation of the corporate "balanced scorecard" principle, used by companies to determine achievement of set goals within a given period of years.

"There is still hope for our country. While the national government is concerned with the impeachment, the cities are moving forward. The cities have bonded to ensure that basic services are delivered," said Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas.

He was referring to the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, which arose in the midst of allegations that she had rigged the May 2004 elections.

It was under similar politically turbulent times that ISA was born, as it was established just after the breakdown of an impeachment trial against ousted President Joseph Estrada in 2001. Headed by Estanislao, finance secretary during the tenure of President Corazon Aquino, the ISA began a campaign for effective governance among local government units (LGUs).

And through LGU ties, the ISA selected the best-performing cities a year ago for the pilot application of the PGS, which encouraged local administrations to operate under established mission, vision and set of values from city hall to the grass roots.

The project was supported by a grant from the USAID, the Asia Foundation and the Center for International Private Enterprise in Washington, D.C.

Realistic goals

After consultations with the ISA, the first batch of cities created their Public Governance Roadmaps based on realistic goals in terms of local management, delivery of basic services, education and infrastructure, among other things.

In a nutshell, here's how the mayors envisioned their cities in the near future.

• San Fernando: The Botanical Garden City by 2010

Mayor Mary Jane Ortega aims to develop both its environment and its people, with equal focus on nurturing the locale's 20-hectare botanical garden, and providing skills training to constituents to make for a more economically viable city.

• Tagbilaran: A Prime Eco-Tourism Hub by 2015

Mayor Dan Neri Lim drafted a plan to improve living standards in his city, where poverty continues to be an affliction. Foremost on the goal list are the creation of more employment, giving locals access to capital and better delivery of health services.

• Calbayog: One City, One People, One Culture by 2015

The city aims to bring the government closer to its people to

boost pride of place. At the same time, Mayor Mel Sarmiento said the city, with a thriving farming and fishing industry, would like to maximize commercial potentials through skills training and improvement of infrastructure.

• Iloilo: Premier City by 2015

This Visayan city aims to be more attractive both as a business and cultural center in the region. Treñas laid out a plan to establish business facilities including a stock exchange, convention centers, manufacturing facilities, and an interconnected mass transport system, while preserving cultural heritage.

• Naga City: Model City for Participatory Government by 2015

The thriving city of the Bicol region aims to bring together government, the constituency, the private sector and civic organizations toward city-wide multi-sectoral progress, said Mayor Jesse Robredo, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee for public service.

• Samal: Island Garden City by 2015

Mayor Rogelio Antalan envisions his city to become an ecotourism center at par with international standards, capitalizing on projecting the island-city as "a city of character" that is highly livable, with a "well-preserved and enriched cultural heritage."

• Cebu: Most Livable City in Asia by 2015

In a presentation by City Administrator Francisco Fernandez, one of the Visayas region's best known business and tourism centers drafted a plan to make Cebu the most peaceful, cleanest and greenest city in the Asian region.

The city aims to give its constituents the most efficient delivery of basic services, transportation and communications systems, employment opportunities, and an internationally competitive quality of education.

• Marikina: A World-class City by 2015

The only Metro Manila city among the ISA picks, Marikina presented its plan to become a "Little Singapore" someday soon. Banking on improvements initiated by former Mayor and now Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, the city, now run by Fernando's wife Marides, aims to sustain a clean and green program that had turned the Marikina Riverbank into a bustling community park, maintain peace and order, and become "part of the international directory of business, sports, and the arts."

Binding commitment

The mayors present during the conference, including Sarmiento, Treñas, Robredo, Antalan, Ortega and Lim, were also recognized as the first batch of ISA fellows, binding them to the commitment of pursuing the plans they had laid out for their cities.

go to Mendoza's house at Camp Aguinaldo last Friday in connection with "very unclear items" against the captain.

Bangit cited a report sent to the PSG that Mendoza belonged to Kawal Pilipino, a group of young officers who had aired grievances against the President.

He said Mendoza had initially been reported to have distributed CDs of the tapped phone conversations between the President and then Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

But a further check made by his office showed that Mendoza's name was among the members of Kawal Pilipino, he said.

"[The visit to Mendoza's house] was just to open the lines of communication, and nothing more than that," Bangit told the government-run Radyo ng Bayan.

He dismissed insinuations that the PSG was harassing Mendoza's family, and said his agents merely gave the captain's wife a calling card.

Palace dismisses Mendoza allegations

From page A1

ing is that many things probably cannot stand in the court of law, but their objective is somehow being attained ... the body punch on their object. And [who's] the object? The President.

"So you can see that this is a scheme to weaken the presidency."

Ermita expressed hope that the stature and integrity of the Armed Forces would not be tainted "by people using an officer or two in these activities..."

"I'm very sure the public will understand if the chain of command has to take action through the military justice system on officers like Mendoza," he said. "Discipline has to be maintained. Let us maintain the integrity and standing of the [AFP]."

'Just an allegation'

But the testimony of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson's witness has further tested the AFP's resolve to confront accusations that the military was involved in election fraud last year.

Despite what Mendoza told the Senate, the AFP said it had no

grounds to investigate Capt. Valentino Lopez, one of two military men whom the witness had linked to the alleged fraud.

"That's just an allegation ... It's hard to investigate a case without a complainant," said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, the AFP public information chief.

Pascual said the Commission on Elections director in Zamboanga who alleged that Lopez had tried to bribe her with P50 million to cheat for the President and gubernatorial candidate Lepeng Wee did not file a formal complaint before the Military Provost Marshal's Office.

"He (Lopez) has denied it. So what do we do?" Pascual said.

"I don't know. The Jago (Judge Advocate General's Office) will look into it," he said.

But Pascual said the military would comply if the Senate would summon the two men. "That's not a problem," he said.

Double standard

The AFP leadership is under fire from its own men for not doing enough to look into the al-

leged involvement of top officials in poll fraud.

A statement supposedly from "concerned young officers" of the AFP yesterday accused the brass of employing a "double standard."

It said it was unfair for the AFP to discredit Mendoza when it did not do the same to the generals mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tape.

"We condemn the character assassination made by the AFP on Captain Mendoza. May we remind our top military officials that [he] has due process rights," the statement said.

"There are [higher] ranking military officers who deserve to be investigated rather than Captain Mendoza," it said. "This is a clear case of double standard in favor of the pro-Arroyo military officials."

A junior officer who sought anonymity said it was Mendoza's "duty to expose the fraud."

Softened stance

"Otherwise, he will be committing an act of omission, like many high-ranking officers," the officer said.

royo aides carrying bags of money had paid off the two witnesses.

Yesterday, Arroyo's chief of staff Juris Soliman said the First Gentleman stayed in the country long enough for the nine-day prayers for his half-sister, Rosario Tuason Matute-Llora, who died of a lingering illness. She was buried on Aug. 2.

Soliman said the First Gentleman actually had to grieve over another death in the family, a cousin from the Arroyo side. She said the First Gentleman attended his cousin's

wake last Saturday.

"He arrived in the country grieving for his sister," Soliman said, noting that it was not the First Gentleman's fault that he had to return to the country.

Asked how Arroyo felt about the new insinuations against him, Soliman said that "he was hurt."

"Anybody will be hurt. It's really malicious ... and cruel," she said.

Malacañang claimed that the First Gentleman was so heartbroken for not being at the bedside of his dying sister that the First Couple did not celebrate

their 37th wedding anniversary last week.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye on Tuesday said that the First Gentleman would continue with his exile abroad even though the Palace had already declared that Ms Arroyo and the First Family had been vindicated by the turnaround of the two witnesses.

Family decision

These witnesses had accused the opposition of forcing them to link the First Gentleman, his son Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, and his brother Rep. Ignacio Arroyo to jueteng payola.

Bunye said the First Gentleman's decision to resume an exile's life was a family decision.

"It has not changed," Bunye said. "The idea was to clear the air of any controversy so the issue of governance can be properly pursued."

Was it a coincidence that the two witnesses' turnaround happened while the First Gentleman was in town?

"We all know why he was here and that has something to do with the death of his sister," Bunye said. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Roger Margallo

Hurting Mike A resumes US exile; condemns opposition

From page A1

of two "jueteng" witnesses—Richard Garcia and Abraham Riva—who both apologized to President Macapagal-Arroyo for dragging her family in the jueteng controversy.

"To link the First Gentleman to these developments is untrue, unfair and malicious, in other words, totally consistent and in form with the black propaganda attacks being waged by the irresponsible opposition," the statement said.

Mr. Arroyo left the country at the height of the worst political crisis in his wife's presidency.

A magnet for controversies, he had hoped that his absence would free her of distractions and allow her to govern effectively.

A death in the family forced him to cut his self-imposed exile after 25 days in the United States and return to the country on July 31.

Before boarding his flight to San Francisco, California, Mr. Arroyo attended the ninth-day Mass for his half-sister.

The slings and arrows were let loose on the still grieving First Gentleman soon after his return as opposition elements said Ar-

EURO ANTI-LAUNDERING GRANT

RP to get P66M to train 'dirty money' trackers

By Volt Contreras

THE GOVERNMENT is set to receive some 961,000 Euros or around P66 million from the European Commission to train 460 banking, judicial and law enforcement officers in tracking down "dirty money."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday signed a financing agreement with the EC for the latter's Anti-Money Laundering Project in the Philippines.

Under the project, whose total cost is estimated at over one million Euros, the EC will provide 961,000 Euros while the Philippine government will contribute

"in-kind" to the tune of 107,000 Euros or around P7.4 million.

To be trained are 10 staff members from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Anti-Money Laundering Council, and 450 more from the financial sector, the courts, police and civil society. The courses will cover basic financial investigation and anti-money laundering rules and procedures.

The project starts upon the signing of the agreement and ends in September 2010. Romulo's counterpart in the EC, Director Erich W. Muller of the European Cooperation Office, signed the agreement in Brussels last

April 12.

"This agreement paves the way for an even more thorough and comprehensive system to be established in the Philippines to combat money-laundering, reinforcing our commitment in the fight against international crime and terrorism," Romulo said.

The training will help equip the government in implementing of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) related to the fight against terrorism and inter-

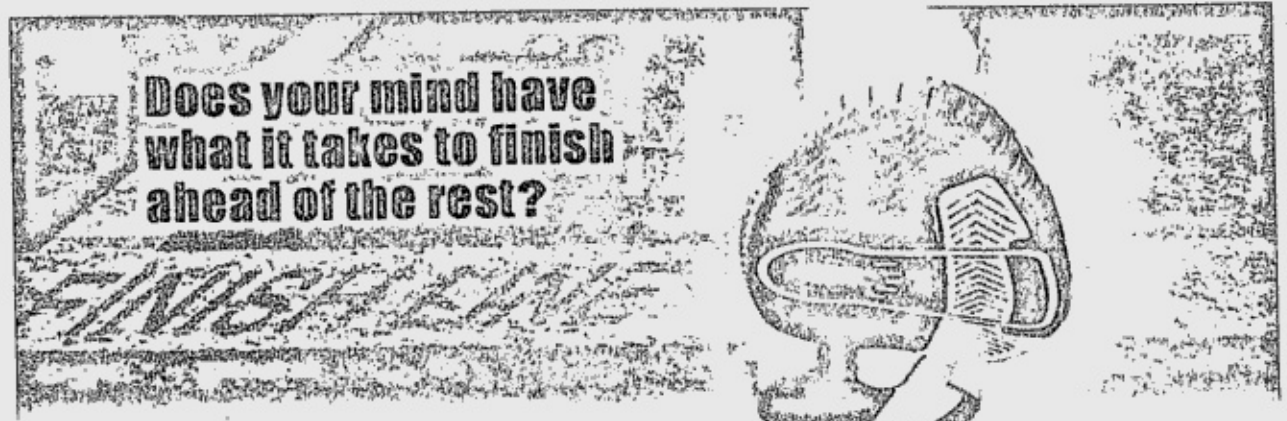
national crime, he added.

"(The agreement) comes at a time when the international community has acknowledged the recent strides made by the Philippines in its anti-money laundering endeavors," he said.

The secretary noted that the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force dropped the Philippines last February from its list of Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories.

The prestigious Egmont Group

of Financial Intelligence Units has also admitted the Anti-Money Laundering Council of the Philippines as a member during the group's 10th anniversary celebrations in Washington DC last June, he recalled.



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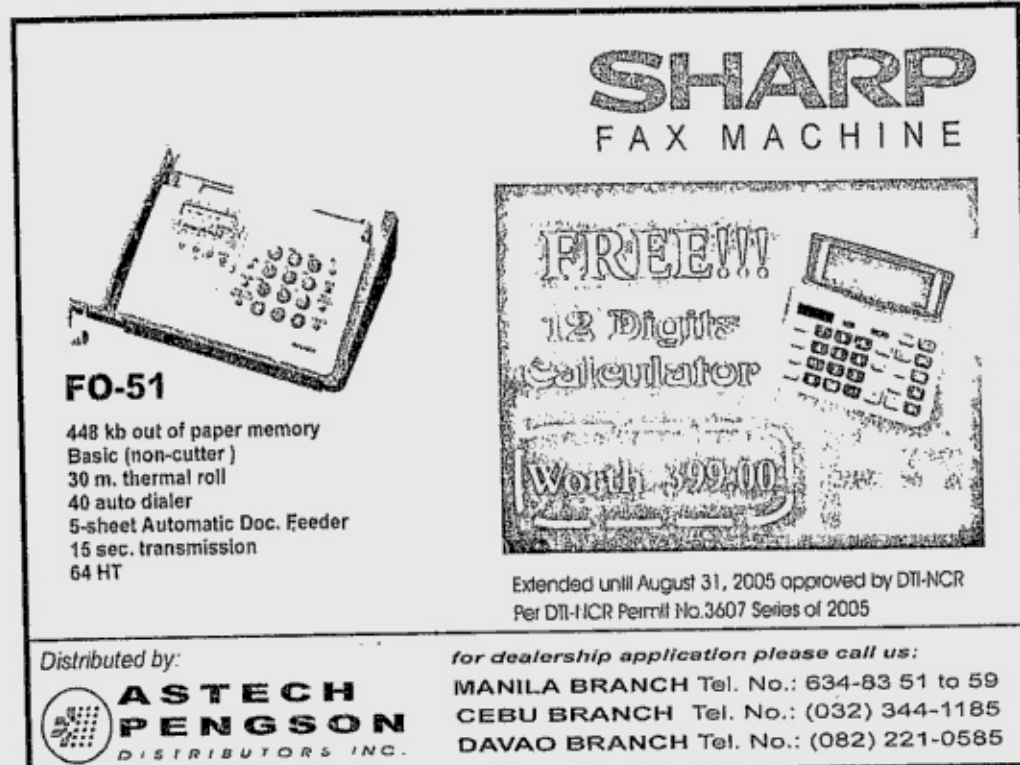
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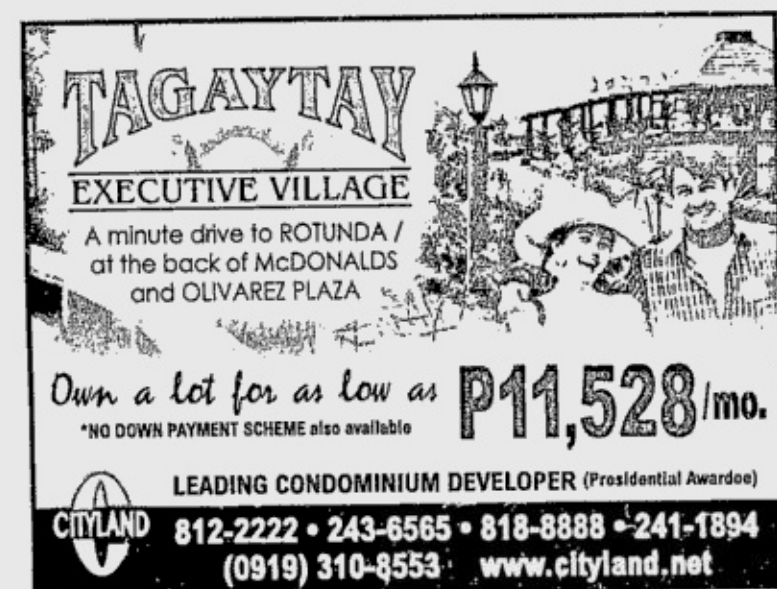
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Russia probes sub accident

VLADIVOSTOK—Russian prosecutors said Tuesday they have opened a criminal investigation into the accident that left seven crew trapped in a mini-submarine in the Pacific Ocean for three days, and analysts said the incident was another blow to the navy's morale.

An initial investigation has established violations by officials responsible for preparing and overseeing the AS-28 mini-submarine's mission, said Roman Kolbanov, the Pacific Fleet's deputy military prosecutor.

One of the submariners, Capt. Valery Lepetyukha, revealed Tuesday that the submarine had been sent to investigate an underwater surveillance antenna that had got entangled in fishing nets.

Russia had to appeal for outside help to rescue the submarine which was 180 meters below the surface off Russia's remote Pacific coast.

Russian ships were able to latch onto the sub and its entanglements with a trawling apparatus, but succeeded in moving it only about 100 meters. A Scorpio remote-controlled underwater vehicle sent by Britain then spent six hours cutting away the cables that had snarled the Russian vessel and its propeller.

After breaking free, the vessel floated up to the surface, and the seven men climbed out onto the deck, ending a more than three-day ordeal in frigid temperatures and with dwindling supplies of water and oxygen.

Moscow newspapers have criticized the navy as failing to learn the lessons of the 2000 Kursk submarine disaster, in which all 118 crew members died, by not investing sufficiently to upgrade its rescue capabilities and by not reporting the accident until the day after it happened.

Pavel Felgenhauer, an independent defense analyst, said that the navy's morale and professionalism was continuing to deteriorate and that another major naval disaster was "virtually inevitable." AP

Shuttle faces uncertain future

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California—Safely back on Earth, though not quite home. Now the shuttle faces an uncertain future.

Signaling its arrival with two thunderous sonic booms, the space shuttle Discovery hurtled out of a black desert sky to a smooth touchdown after scrapping four landing attempts at its Florida base because of rain and lightning. The landing at a back-up site was met with cheers and palpable relief after a tense two-week mission that raised fears of a Columbia-like disaster.

"Congratulations on a truly spectacular test flight," Mission Control said after Discovery came to a stop on the concrete runway at 5:11 a.m. PDT (1211 GMT) Tuesday. "Welcome home, friends."

The mission exposed how vulnerable the shuttle fleet remains,

despite a tremendous amount of money and effort invested in the first US manned space mission in the two and a half years since the Columbia tragedy.

Shortly after liftoff July 26, a 450-gram chunk of foam insulation fell from the fuel tank—the very thing that doomed Columbia—but it missed Discovery. Still, NASA grounded all shuttle flights until engineers fix the problem.

"We're going to try as hard as we can to get back in space this year," NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said at a post-landing news conference. "But we're not going to go until we're ready to go."

Shuttle managers freely acknowl-

edged the foam mistake, while stressing that the inspection, photography and other shuttle data-gathering systems put in place for this flight worked well. What's more, NASA officials said no severe damage was detected on Discovery while it was in orbit.

"I hope this shows people that we're coming back," NASA space-flight chief Bill Readdy said from Cape Canaveral, Florida. "We've got some more work to do. We know what we need to do and we'll do it."

The Columbia disaster weighed heavily on everyone's minds as the shuttle made its descent to Earth. Co-pilot James Kelly said he was "honestly hoping that we'd make it farther than they did. And I wished that they had made it all the way home."

Unlike previous Edwards landings, in which throngs of spectators gathered for a shuttle return,

the public was barred from viewing Discovery due to increased security after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The 27,350-kph plunge from orbit took Discovery through a passage of the same kind of intense heating that exposed the mortal wound in Columbia's wing. The shuttle soared across the Pacific and over Southern California, passing just north of Los Angeles on its way to Edwards as it completed a journey that spanned 9.3 million km and 219 orbits of Earth.

NASA adjusted the flight path in order to skirt Los Angeles because of new safety considerations in the wake of the Columbia disaster, which rained debris onto Texas and Louisiana.

During Discovery's approach, Dr. Jon Clark, a NASA neurologist and husband of Columbia astronaut Laurel Clark, said he quietly remembered his wife and closely

compared the two missions.

"I thought, 'This is when the tire light went on,'" Clark said from Kennedy Space Center, referring to an initial sensor reading that Columbia was breaking up. "I was paralleling the two missions."

Two hours after touchdown, the astronauts walked around the shuttle to inspect for possible damage.

"It looks fantastic," Commander Eileen Collins said.

Collins said the United States should continue launching shuttles until the scheduled completion of the international space station in 2010—a sentiment echoed by Griffin.

"Some people say we should stop flying the shuttle because we had an accident—frankly we've had two accidents—but we are people who believe in this mission and we are going to continue it," Collins said. AP

US negotiator uncertain on Korea nuke deal

WASHINGTON—The US negotiator said on Tuesday prospects were uncertain for reaching a deal on scrapping North Korean nuclear programs, but he expected the two nations to meet on narrowing their differences before a new session of six-party talks.

"I just don't know, I just don't know. But I tell you if we don't get a deal it won't be because we haven't tried," Christopher Hill, the US envoy to the talks, told reporters in answer to a question about the chances of an agreement.

Talks in Beijing this month broke off after 13 days without agreement, but the United States, North and South Korea, Japan, China and Russia are due to resume negotiations aimed at hammering out the principles of a deal the week of Aug. 29.

Earlier on Tuesday, North Korea put the onus on the United States to resolve the stalemate, saying Washington should drop a key demand and allow Pyongyang to retain nuclear

programs for peaceful purposes.

But Hill reiterated that the North's wish to have a light-water reactor was unacceptable because of US fears that the communist nation could switch the facility from research to weapon-making as he said they had in the past.

The United States has proposed giving North Korea economic incentives and security guarantees in exchange for its dismantlement of nuclear programs.

The Bush administration had been criticized for allowing North Korea to build its suspected nuclear arsenal while it shunned the bilateral negotiations Pyongyang wanted.

But Hill changed the US tactic and met repeatedly with the North during this month's round in what he said were business-like talks that allowed the two sides to explore their positions.

The veteran negotiator of conflicts in the Balkans also predicted Washington would hold talks with the

North Koreans to prepare for the resumption in Beijing.

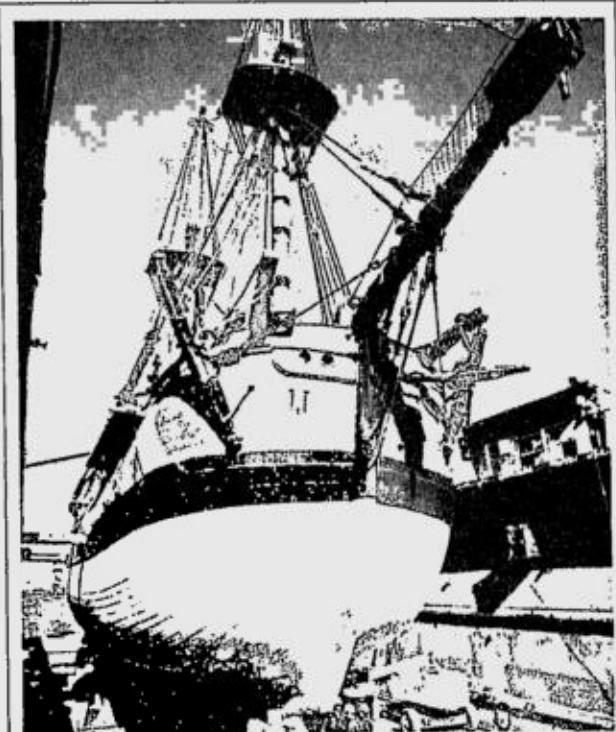
"I would imagine there will be some," he said. "If there is value to direct contacts we would have them."

The fourth round of talks was the first in 13 months and the longest so far, raising hope that the sides were negotiating seriously after previous sessions involved scant back-and-forth to resolve differences.

Still, Hill said it had been unclear if the North Korean negotiators had enough clout to strike a deal and the break would allow time to see how much backing they had from the government in Pyongyang.

Hill, who said he tried to sleep well and exercise to avoid getting ill-tempered, said the North Koreans did not show the anger they had a reputation for during the marathon talks.

But while he was close enough to go for walks with the Japanese and South Korean negotiators, his contacts with the North Koreans were less relaxed. Reuters



SHIP REPLICA
Shipwrights inspect the keel of the replica of Captain Cook's ship Endeavour while in drydock at Sydney's Garden Island Aug. 10. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran to proceed with atomic work

VIENNA—Iran will get access on Wednesday to sealed parts of an uranium conversion plant, allowing Tehran to move closer to resuming production of enriched uranium that Washington and the EU fears may be used to make an atomic bomb. Iran denies accusations that its nuclear programme is a front for bomb-making. It says it needs to develop nuclear power as an alternative energy source to meet booming electricity demand and preserve its oil and gas reserves for export. Reuters

China eyes lunar probe next month

BEIJING—Ambitious new space power China will start developing a lunar probe satellite next month in preparation for an unmanned mission in 2007, state media said Wednesday. The satellite will orbit the moon, but the next step in China's space program will be to develop a craft that can touch down on the lunar surface, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Ye Peijian, the satellite's designer. "After the lunar flight, China will carry out soft landing exploration and inspection missions on the moon," he said according to Xinhua. AFP

Balkan war criminal extradition

BUENOS AIRES—Accused Bosnian Serb war criminal Milan Lukic agreed Tuesday to be extradited from Argentina to the United Nations' Yugoslavia warcrimes court in The Hague, his lawyer told AFP. Lukic, 37, was arrested Monday in Buenos Aires at the request of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He appeared before an Argentine court Tuesday. "The detainee has agreed to be extradited," said his attorney. AFP

40 Nepal soldiers executed

KATHMANDU—Nepal's army on Tuesday accused Maoist rebels of executing 40 soldiers in the deadliest incident since the king seized power in February. The army said its soldiers had been lined up and shot in the head after a battle which raged in the northwestern town of Kalkot throughout Sunday night, bringing the clash's known death toll to 66 with 76 more soldiers missing. AFP

US general relieved for misconduct

WASHINGTON—The four-star general who headed the US Army's training and recruiting efforts has been relieved of his duties after an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct, defense officials said on Tuesday. In a rare punishment of a four-star officer—the highest rank in the military—Gen. Kevin Byrnes, 52, was fired as commanding general of the Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe in Virginia by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army said in a statement. Reuters

Maximum sentence for suspect

HAMBURG—Prosecutors demanded the maximum 15 years in prison for Moroccan national Mounir el Motassadeq Tuesday at his retrial over the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, amid German fears of a fresh acquittal of a terror suspect. Federal prosecutor Matthias Krauss told the court in Hamburg that he had "no doubt" that Motassadeq's claim that he had offered innocent help to the suicide hijackers was a lie. "There was a group in Hamburg until September 2001 that helped prepare the attacks with the suicide hijackers in the United States," he said. AFP

Project seeks to preserve endangered languages

WASHINGTON—Every two weeks or so the last elderly man or woman with full command of a particular language dies. At that rate, as many as 2,500 native tongues will disappear forever by 2100.

David W. Lightfoot is helping spearhead a US government initiative to preserve some of these dying languages, believing each is a window into the human mind that can benefit the world at large.

"If we are going to lose half the world's languages, that endangers our capacity to understand the genetic basis of language," said Lightfoot, who heads the directorate of Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation.

The foundation recently joined the National Endowment for the Humanities in the effort to preserve languages.

The project has awarded \$4.4 million to 26 institutions and 13 individual scholars to investigate the status of 70 languages that are believed to be endangered and to help preserve them. The project is now asking researchers to apply for additional grants, with the expectation that at least \$2 million a year will be available.

Some experts say there are up to 10,000 different languages left in the world; others put the estimate at thousands lower, depending on how many are characterized as dialects of another language.

Languages aren't just words, linguists say, but a people's way of looking at the world.

Lightfoot gives the example of Guguyimadjir, spoken by people in the Australian state of Queensland. They have no words for "left" or "right" but orient themselves and their world by the points of the compass—unlike most of us, who see things in relation to ourselves rather than to the world as a whole. AP

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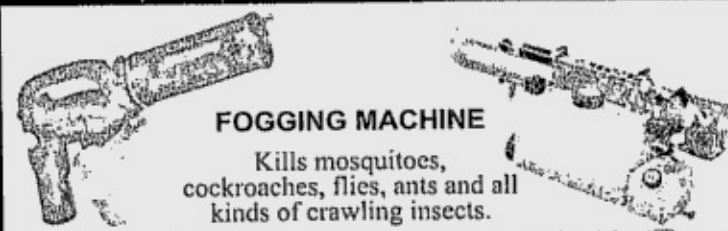
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Do You Have Dyspepsia?

Parang tambol ang tiyan. Kabag. Masakit ang silmura. If you frequently experience these symptoms, you may have a common stomach condition known as dyspepsia.

What Is Dyspepsia?
Dyspepsia is a recurring discomfort in the chest and stomach region. Aside from **bloating, gas** and **stomach pain**, other symptoms include **heavy stomach, fullness** and **nausea**.

Dyspeptic symptoms usually appear when stomach movement slows and food does not empty from the stomach. These symptoms often follow meals, but can occur anytime.

Treatment
Frequent remedies taken for dyspepsia-like symptoms are drinks like tea, soft drinks or antacids. These remedies may relieve some, but not all of the symptoms of dyspepsia.

Another class of medication, called prokinetics, more directly addresses the full range of dyspeptic symptoms by restoring proper stomach movement. The most widely used prokinetic in the Philippines is Domperidone, which is available in 10mg tablet form.

See Your Doctor
If your symptoms persist, it is best to see your doctor. A Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) doctor will recommend the right treatment for dyspepsia.

By Dr. Ramon B. Cirio
Chairman, Council on Dyspepsia
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Sa Dyspepsia,



If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

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ISSN
0116-2642

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OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at:
 • Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascarido Sts., Makati City
 • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-0808 connecting all departments
 • Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4007
 • Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
 • 100% soy ink

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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Failed test

IT would be hard to find clearer proof of how low its standards of efficiency and order have sunk than that the Commission on Elections would give itself a pat on the back for the conduct of the election in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao last Monday. As the balloting closed, Election Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. declared that the ARMM had just experienced an "abnormal" election—"abnormal" because it was generally peaceful.

That was hardly news, and neither was it original. Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr., ARMM chair of the National Movement for Free Elections, said exactly the same thing after the regional polls in November 2001. "The election was abnormally peaceful," Mercado then said, after pointing out that past ARMM elections had been marred by violence which claimed the lives of a number of people.

In last Monday's political exercise, Tuason made the same observation saying, "This time, not a single bloody and violent incident was reported."

True, no blood was shed during the elections, but violence—or at least the threat of it—was a part of the process in several places. In one school in Tuburan, Basilan, for example, school teachers manning a poll precinct could only look on in fear and helplessness as armed men snatched away empty ballots, then returning and stuffing them, filled out, into the ballot boxes after an hour. In Lumbatan, Lanao del Sur, the mayor reportedly fired his gun indiscriminately and prevented poll officials from performing their duties.

There were also indications that the candidates employed the usual tactics and tricks to win. In Marawi City, supporters of candidates stayed in the polling places after casting their votes and distributed campaign materials of their candidates. In Madalum, Lanao del Sur, one "operator" working for a candidate was caught by reporters buying votes for as much as P500 right inside a voting precinct. In a few other towns of Lanao del Sur, the elections were declared over just an hour or two after the precincts opened. One Comelec regional official was quoted as saying that in places where the turnout was abnormally high, many voters may have voted twice.

So despite the relatively peaceful conduct of the elections, everything else was "normal," including the padding of voters' lists, the intimidation, the vote buying, the ballot snatching, the presence of flying voters, etc.

All this happened under the very noses of top Comelec officials who had arrived in full force to oversee the proceedings and had enlisted the support of several battalions of soldiers to ensure that the election would be clean, honest, orderly and peaceful. And all this came to pass even as everyone was looking at the ARMM election as a crucial test for the Comelec, which has come under fire for bungling the registration of voters and the computerization of the voting and counting, as well as for helping rig the results of the 2004 presidential elections.

If what happened in the election was the best the Comelec could do, then that was not enough. If that was its best shot, then trouble lies in every election that the country will hold. This week's election only proved further—if indeed further proof was needed—that the Comelec, as it is presently constituted, cannot measure up to its job. Sweeping reforms are obviously needed at the Comelec, but its leadership is hardly the kind to be entrusted with that responsibility.

Strange friendship

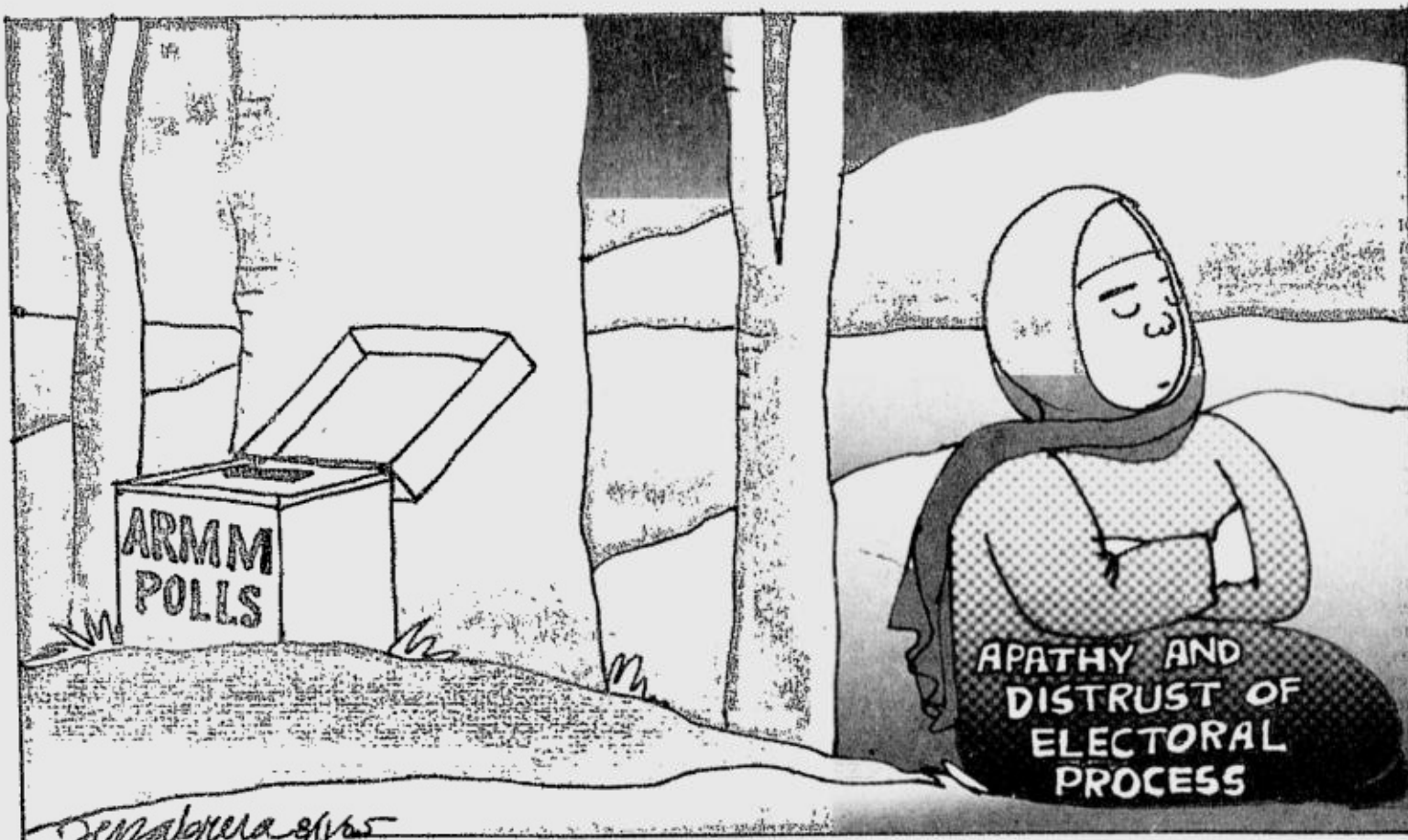
THE SILKY transition of Crown Prince Abdullah to the Saudi throne has been met with grateful relief all around. Nobody expected there to be any real trouble. But these days you never know.

So out goes one bearded, berobed friend of the West, and in comes another. The new man is confidently expected to continue in the anti-terror, pro-oil-for-all traditions of his predecessor. He may go even further and do something serious about bringing a little democracy to the place...

Demands for greater democracy are unlikely to present a major headache for the new monarch. Reform loses its appeal in times of prosperity. It is, anyway, the preoccupation of a small number of Western-educated sophisticates who are greatly outnumbered by a conservative majority whose loyalties are to family and tribe and to the harsh form of Islam which is the twin pillar of the state...

The Saudis may not be democrats and are unlikely to become so any time soon. We may not like their apparent profligacy and refusal to endorse modern mores. But strange times make for strange friendships. This is one we would do well to sustain and nurture.

Daily Telegraph (London)



A cage full of bananas

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



THE BRITISH don't have a written constitution. They never did. But their unwritten charter extends throughout their realm, shrunken in today's post-empire era.

Like Russians, we Filipinos painstakingly scribble out our constitutions, which are often honored more in the breach than in the observance. Our transient "leaders" badger us to rewrite them to suit their equally transient plans.

People power shredded Ferdinand Marcos' Constitution that ensured his perpetual stay in power. Protests erupted in 1997 when President Fidel V. Ramos and 87 congressmen—whose terms of office were petering out—pushed for House Resolution 40 and Senate Bill 18. Both mandated Congress—as a constituent assembly, not citizens in a convention—to blue-pencil the charter.

"That'd be like setting monkeys loose in a cage full of bananas," exploded critics.

"We can win the battle in the House," Speaker Jose de Venecia told President Ramos then. "But we'd lose the war outside."

Will they win this time?

As President Macapagal-Arroyo's regime stalled from the wiretapped tape scandal, Ramos dangled a "parachute": within a year, recast the Constitution to underpin a federal parliamentary democracy. Charter change could be her legacy.

"We have strained the present political system to its final limit," the President stressed in her State of the Nation Address. "It's time to start the great debate on Charter change"—with Congress as rewrite desk.

Congressmen were ecstatic. But senators froze at the prospect of being obliterated in a unicameral system. Local executives were tantalized by liberation from "Imperial Manila" under a federal system. These triggered today's charter rewriting pandemic.

Charter change is far more important than the President's fate, citizens like Antonio Hidalgo and Jenny Llaguno told an informal gathering of Filipinos who served in the United Nations. But the move is exploited to divert attention from electoral fraud and other charges.

"Everyone's political energy is focused on

bringing down or defending President Arroyo," Institute for Popular Democracy executive director Joel Rocamora wrote. "There's no way constitutional reform will go anywhere under current conditions."

Indeed, no one is fooled. For all the rhetoric, this is about simians and bananas. Most would-be charter editors cling to position, perks and pork. "Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac," former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger once said.

"Are there constitutional provisions that need to be changed now?" a Social Weather Stations survey asked in May. Seven out of 10 replied "No." "Grass-roots interest in Charter change continued to be low." Three out of 10 favor some amendments, the SWS reports.

Yet, more people feel that "something's got to give." A system that thrives on persistent near-anarchy and locks the majority into penury can only end in upheaval. The conflict treadmill hasn't stanchied the migration hemorrhage of the country's best and brightest.

"There is a time for every purpose under heaven," Ecclesiastes writes. "There is a time to tear down and a time to build"—or even rewrite constitutions. Is that time now?

A system change could end "Imperial Manila's" grip on resources and talents, say Prof. Jose Abueva, former Ambassador Jose Romero and their group. These could be funneled into a semi-starved countryside. Their ideas are distilled in a new book, "Charter Change for Good Governance: Towards a Federal Republic of the Philippines, with a Parliamentary Government."

Former Prime Minister Cesar Virata thinks a shift could end the gridlock between the exec-

utive and the legislature. As early as the 1970s, convention, the late former Sen. Raul Manglapus plugged for a parliamentary system.

"Does the possibility of a switch justify the hopes that are being attached to it?" asks the veteran journalist Harvey Stockwin in "Reflections From Asia" aired over Radio-TV Hong Kong.

There are no quick fixes, warn citizens like Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales. Unless mind-sets change, the same Neanderthals would entrench further injustices using the new system.

People rejected the scorched-earth policy offered by the discredited Joseph Estrada and communist allies in a "transitory government." Instead, a consensus is emerging that impeachment proceed, while the debate on Charter change starts.

But this accord is also a refusal to be stampeded. There's a clear-eyed realization that constitutions enshrine a nation's ideals and the values a people cherish, their permanent hopes for tomorrow. To rewrite a charter wisely, "reason free of passion" is needed.

Today's banana cage of political primates won't provide that milieu. Legislators have devalued congressional hearings into stands for massive perjury by stool pigeons and seamy bagmen. Who would entrust recasting a constitution to moral ciphers?

We'd welcome Charter change drafted by delegates elected to a convention. That will be possible only if both the administration and opposition handle today's impeachment process far better than the aborted Estrada trial.

If impeachment is unfair, there'll be extortionate institutional costs. The chance for constitutional review and reform could be stripped away by turmoil.

There's enough kindling for that—from today's near-paralysis of governance, \$64-a-barrel of oil, the country's degraded credit ratings, depleted natural resources, terror threats to hidden hunger. That's too high a cost for unleashing monkeys in a cage stuffed with bananas.

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Good men, too

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



As usual, the same unprincipled lot that made him pay for his principles was quick to praise his principles after he died—in the same way that GMA was quick to do so after Roco died. Rogues do know how to lie through their teeth.

But Cook does have a thing or two to teach a world that is fast losing its moral moorings, this country faster than the rest. Like all the great men who have come before him, Cook has added new dimensions to the meaning of courage and compelled us to reexamine the nature of victory and defeat. He staked his career on principle, putting reason before power, compassion before greed.

It's not completely true that the evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones. No one will remember Bush, Blair and GMA a few years from now. Everyone will still be lighting candles for Cook and Roco.

Apart from Cook and Roco, yet another person to have disappeared from this earth during the weekend was Ibrahim Ferrer. Which brings me back to what God has against artists. Not too many people know Ferrer, and if it hadn't been for guitarist-composer Ry Cooder, no one would have known him at all outside of his family and friends. Cooder went to Cuba in the mid-1990s and assembled a group of musicians that played vintage Cuban music. The group became the hugely famous Buena Vista Social Club, with Ferrer as lead singer, "the Cuban Nat King Cole," as Cooder described him in Wim Wenders' film biography.

What made the group special was not just that they were gifted musicians but that they

were in their 70s and 80s. At the time Cooder discovered them, Compay Segundo was 90 years old and fit as a fiddle, or guitar, which was what he played. And he had been smoking Havana cigars from when he was 5 years old! Alas, Segundo would depart the earth earlier in 2003, as would the great Ruben Gonzalez, as fine a pianist as you could get. I have the CDs of Buena Vista, Ferrer and Gonzalez, as well as a DVD of Wenders' film, simply titled "Buena Vista Social Club," and I have listened to them again and again. Nobody plays that kind of music anymore.

And nobody else will, unless Buena Vista finds its own version of Michael Buble. They were pretty much the heart and soul of the band, Ferrer, Gonzalez and Segundo.

Ferrer himself had been a member in several bands in his youth, but had fallen on hard times when their kind of music faded from glory. At the time Cooder discovered him, he was trying to make both ends meet shining shoes. A friend of his told him about Cooder's rehearsals and, asked him to go. Ferrer said he would go home first to change into more respectable clothes. His friend said no, the recordings were going, on. So he went. It was magic from the first meeting. Cooder would say later on that Ferrer, was someone you chanced upon only once in a lifetime. You hear Ferrer sing, you'll agree vigorously. He sings, particularly in duet with the great Omara Portuondo, with such luxurious romanticism, with such depths of ache and longing, you are thrown back to the Spanish times in this country. Rival might have listened to something like that.

Ferrer won the Grammy a few years ago, to the elation not just of Cuba but the world's Latin community. Alas, he died too soon from emphysema at the very young age of 78—at least by Buena Vista standards.

What can I say? I can only thank them for making this world a little brighter. Or, in these vastly cynical times, for keeping the light burning a little longer.

The biggest issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



the proceedings every step of the way.

One can imagine the so many conflicting issues that have to be taken up. But doubtless, what would entail a lot of debate would be the major issue of which impeachment complaint to tackle in the committee. Yesterday, President Arroyo's legal counsel, Pedro Ferrer, filed with the House Committee on Justice a formal objection to the amended complaint filed by the opposition last July 25. Ferrer cited Sec. 3 (5) of Article IX of the Constitution, which reads: "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within the period of one year." Ferrer stressed that the amended complaint is a "sham and unauthorized pleading, and therefore, procedurally infirm" inasmuch as it is "actually another or a different and separate impeachment complaint."

Interestingly, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who sponsored the original rules to govern the impeachment of GMA on the floor, also raised a number of "prejudicial questions" that ought to be debated and resolved by the committee. One of them reads: "Since the amended complaint radically and substantially supplanted the original Lozano complaint, should it be considered as a separate, independent and new complaint?" If the amended complaint is considered "separate or new," queried Lagman, is it then barred by the one-year rule found in the Constitution?

The validity of the amended complaint will doubtless be debated upon in the committee. Datumanong was quoted as saying that the

question of sufficiency of form and substance cannot be tackled by his committee until it's clear which complaint is going to be taken up. In fact, Representatives Defensor and Nograles have publicly stated that they would like to invite constitutional experts to shed light on this issue. I imagine that it may even be raised to the Supreme Court by Rep. Rodante Marcoleta, the sponsor of the original Lozano complaint. A good idea as it will settle the issue once and for all. But again, the public ought to be forewarned that the opposition will again tear its hair and scream undue delay, even suppression of the "truth."

Finally, some sense descended on the Senate committees investigating the *jueteng* issue. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile raised the prejudicial question of whether the long drawn-out inquiry has been truly in aid of legislation. Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago backed him up on this question, even as she demanded a termination date for it, in view of the impeachment case in the House. Enrile noted that the only thing clear so far was that *jueteng* money was allegedly used as bribe by a female local government official said to be involved in *jueteng* operations, but no proof has so far been offered about her involvement. If this is true, he asserted, it's an issue for the Ombudsman, the NBI and other agencies, not the Senate. But committee chair Manuel Villar prevailed upon Enrile to withdraw his query.

Despite Enrile's act, it cannot be denied that the Senate *jueteng* inquiry has reached truly ridiculous proportions. Sen. Panfilo Lacson has admitted that the Army captain is his witness, and he vowed to look for more witnesses against GMA, obviously as his personal vendetta. Recall that previous witnesses (who have since recanted) had asserted that Lacson had been their handler. This means that aside from his being the "dean" of the "witness academy," Lacson is also the fiscal, as he heard out their testimonies; the judge, as he sits in the committee hearing; and the jury, as he brings the case before the bar of public opinion. Why is this anomaly tolerated by the Senate?

Taking it from here

DO you sometimes have the feeling that you're being swallowed up by the events of your life? That, yes, things are moving along, but your heart and soul are somewhere else entirely? That your life is not your own? That precious, precious time is slipping away from you because you don't have focus or purpose?

Let me be more explicit by walking you through my daily routine. See if you can relate to it or even just parts of it.

I dress up in the morning and I'm excited by what I'm going to wear. It's something I can directly control. I can be as creative with the color and style combinations as I want. What I'm going to wear to work can be new and fresh. (This is actually one of the best parts of my day!)

Then I step out of the house and join the rest of the working world in a mad, mad morning rush to our offices. I don't know how many times I've stared out the window of my Ayala-bound FX at the morning traffic and said to myself, "This is crazy! I don't want to live like this. Why do we live like this?"

I see people scurrying about, frowning if they fail to catch their ride to work. Or, I don't know, are they frowning because of déjà vu? It's the same scene that's been played out and they've starred in a million times. I ask myself if the dismay or blank expression I see in people's faces during my morning commute is just a symptom of existential questioning I find myself engaged in. "What on earth am I here for? Am I doing the right thing or is there something else I should be doing but am not? Am I just letting my life slip away from me? Or am I the only one asking these questions and feeling lost and confused?"

When I get to work, I have to get my caffeine fix. Believe me, if I can live without it, I would. I just need the extra jolt of energy to get me through the day. In that sense, I'm no different from those who have become dependent on the bottle or other substances. As a rational human being, I know that the thing I'm addicted to isn't good for me and is making my normal body functions go haywire, but I use it as a crutch to help me get through my daily working life.

I don't seem to sound all that cheerful about work and yet, I've told my friends I personally prefer to work in the great urban jungles of Ayala, Eastwood or Ortigas. There's an energy in these places that you just feed on. I feel strangely alive, yes, in the frenetic pace of activities in these megacenters of work and commerce. I love watching what people are wearing, how they carry themselves with self-importance, how they mentally plan out their tasks for the day (or even just their meals!). These are my people. We share similar concerns and worries, not to mention the staple: My God, I have a report due tomorrow morning and I haven't even started on it. How in hell am I going to finish it on time?

And (you guessed it right!) the rest of the day passes by in a blur. It's one deadline, task, meeting, phone call or another. There are good moments, good conversations or good meals with friends in between and, I believe, that's a huge part of what we live for and what keeps us sane on a daily basis. And to clarify the matter, I do work with a good group and there are opportunities to learn from every situation we find ourselves in.

The workday ends and my morning commute is put in reverse. When I get home, I'm too tired to reflect on what happened in the course of the day, even if I want to and know I need to. My evenings are spent living vicariously through other people's trials and triumphs (a.k.a. escapism): "Six Feet Under," "The Probe Team Documentaries" or whatever's on HBO or Star Movies that sustains my interest. (In the rare instances that I'm home early, I catch snatches of "Entertainment Tonight," "Encantadia" and "All About Eve.")

That's a quick run-through on my daily life. It's an eclectic mix of content and discontent. Now I realize that I should be happy that I'm asking questions, rather than just slogging through it daily and feeling oddly empty and clueless.

A friend told me that one of her key "take-aways" (our catch-word for lessons learned from a training session) is that work is not always happy, and to work from there. This I can apply to my life. Then there are the ellipses and "if I had the time." (That's another page from my journal altogether.)

I don't mean to keep you in suspense or withhold your hoped-for happy ending. There isn't any, this is just what is for now. I have to take it from here.

Pauline V. Apilado, 27, is an organizational development associate at eTelecare Global Solutions Inc.

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THEY SAID

Hobbling past

"Let's understand the past but let's not dwell on it, for that could be another excuse not to move on."

—Entrepreneur and former pop singer Jaime Garchitorena on why the country seemed to have been hobbled from crisis to crisis

Act of statesmanship

"We acknowledge that the President has achieved commendable progress in many of her programs. To preserve her legacy, she must now act with statesmanship and relinquish the presidency to her constitutionally mandated successor."

—The Management Association of the Philippines, asking government leaders to demonstrate statesmanship, which means acting in the interest of future generations of Filipinos

Character change

"Charter change at this time must be preceded by character change. Heaven will not fall if the Charter is not changed immediately, but it might if we, the people, do not change and reform our ways."

—Alliance for the Common Good (Ang Kapatiran) political party president Nandy Pacheco on the proposal to change our form of government

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Roco in search of Camelot

"THINK back," the late Raul Roco had mused, seemingly swallowed up in a fog of memories. "Think back on all the tales that you remember of Camelot."

The words from the 1960s Lerner-Loewe musical often cascaded from Roco's lips, as he thought back on how King Arthur sang about that "fleeing wisp of glory, called Camelot."

Roco, former congressman, senator, education secretary and presidential aspirant, died of cancer on Aug. 5. He was 63. He will be buried today in Naga City. Roco and another 2004 presidential contender, Fernando Poe Jr., died within eight months of each other.

"We were the Camelot boys," Roco recalled when I interviewed him in his Antipolo hillside retreat named An Maogmang Lugar (Bicol for "the happy place") famous for its tropical blooms that became the signature design of his campaign get-up.

The dream—how far back did it go, when first did the glimmer of the presidency come into view?

It was in 1961, Roco said, when he was president of the National Union of Students in the Philippines (NUSP), that something stirred in him. "Those were the Kennedy years. President Kennedy spoke of Camelot. 'Right is might.' When he said, 'Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country,' it was as if he was addressing me."

"I was popular on campuses. People would say, continue on and run for president. That is the Filipino dream, like the American dream that every one could be president. As a student leader you start thinking of it, but you don't really dream of it."

In November 1963, Kennedy was assassinated. "All of a sudden Camelot vanished," Roco recalled. "But dreams never die, never die." And being a student leader then, he saw the value of politics, that "power can serve."

The tragedies that stalked those he idolized were not lost on Roco. He remembered the day President Ramon Magsaysay died in a plane crash in 1957, the people weeping, lining up to buy newspapers. Here was someone he had not even met but for whom he, like so many people, shed tears.

Roco was chosen one of the Ten Outstanding

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



Students of the Philippines of 1964. He would later marry the most outstanding student of that batch, Sonia Malasarte, with whom he has six children.

Roco finished law, magna cum laude, at the Benedictine-run San Beda College. He finished his master's degree in comparative law at the University of Pennsylvania.

After he passed the bar in 1965, Roco lobbied for the holding of the Constitutional Convention. With the ConCon law passed in 1967, Roco campaigned for a seat to represent his district in Camarines Sur. He won.

He later joined the staff of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. He drafted the study-now-pay-later bill which was part of Aquino's campaign promise. Then President Marcos declared martial law.

Roco moved on to corporate law and joined the ACCRA law office that produced several national politicians. As a legislator and self-styled "honorary woman," Roco authored pro-women laws. He was also known for authoring laws reforming the Central Bank.

Aksyon Demokratiko, Roco's fledgling party, pushed his 1998 and 2004 presidential bids. In 2004, Aksyon linked up with Promdi and Reporma, the party machines of two 1998 also-runs Lito Osmeña and Renato de Villa, to form Alyansa ng Pag-asa (Alliance of Hope). Roco had an incomplete senatorial slate composed of political virgins. He ran on the "agenda of hope" that stood for major reforms in the government.

Roco rated high in pre-election surveys and was considered a strong presidential contender in 2004. But halfway through the campaign, illness forced him out of the campaign trail. He was back soon enough to rally the Roco die-hards but

by then his chances had greatly diminished.

Roco was arguably the most intellectually prepared among the presidential aspirants. One could easily imagine him taking his place among world leaders, or steering the ship of state through rough waters.

Roco was a great public speaker, using just the right decibel, inflection and cadence in his words. He often quoted from poetry and put human faces on his data. He spoke not only to inform but to inspire. His spiels were punctuated with Pinoy witticisms and truisms. He could even sing.

He described himself as a follower of Peter Drucker, management guru and author. Management is like conducting a symphony orchestra, Roco said. His management style gave the people in the education department, which he headed briefly, a culture shock.

Roco proudly said that the department was stricken off the corrupt list after seven months. Over a year later, Roco resigned in a huff. He resigned on a point of honor, he said.

To An Maogmang Lugar, Roco often hied off to smell the flowers. Great world leaders, Roco often reminded, needed solitary moments to find the strength within themselves.

His idea of God? Roco laughed while recalling a story. "The ant was asked what its idea of God was and it answered, 'I have one sting, God has two.' God is an eternal presence. One could believe in a supreme deity, or in creation or in extreme patriotism to serve. As a Christian, I believe that Christ is God. The Christian tenets were what kept us fairly civilized."

Faith and politics, Roco believed, could mix, if both could translate into good works.

Roco dreamed of a Philippine image before the world—that of a nation striving to be honest and honorable. "Filipinos are honorable," he told the INQUIRER. "It's our leaders who are not. There is no nation that has grown without a sense of honor."

Raul Roco was ever in search of Camelot. He passed on during this very tumultuous time in Philippine politics.

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Faith instead of fear

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



dent. In 1998, close to two out of every three voters felt Erap was unqualified for the presidency, even though on his own, Estrada garnered as many votes as his four leading opponents combined. In 2004, six out of 10 voters decided they preferred someone else to GMA. Since the quicker turnover in positions means it will be a rare occasion that a person of vast experience and ice-cold nerves, like FVR, will show up, it's no wonder Filipinos have resorted to People Power semi-successfully once (January 2001) and disastrously—once, too (May 2001); and are now still agonizing over the possibility of resorting to it in the future.

The question should really be: if the people turned out right, why did they end up with such presidents, anyway? History seems to have proven the majority correct (granting, for the sake of argument and kindness to former President Ramos), two times out of three past national elections. They didn't want Estrada, and he turned out a dud; they didn't like Arroyo, and now she's fighting for her political survival. They didn't want Ramos either (he still smarts over the public's lack of enthusiasm toward him to this day). Where, then, is the stupidity of the electorate? Indeed, the public, across all socioeconomic lines, went through a period of supporting the incumbent, even if victory was achieved through a mere plurality. They gave presidents enough rope with which to hang themselves.

That the presidents have chosen to hang themselves is their fault, not of the public, certainly not the majority of the public that couldn't help it if

the alternatives to those they clearly didn't want failed to sort things out among themselves. In any election, there is always a candidate who represents the clearest threat; it takes unity among the opponents of that threat to prevent the enemy from winning by default. Ramos, Estrada, Arroyo all won by default. Which is not to say theirs was ever much of a victory.

Last Monday, a "Blueprint for a Viable Philippines" was launched. I was unable to attend their early morning affair, but received a copy of the first draft of their policy paper. I believe the paper deserves the widest circulation and the most vigorous discussion. The "Blueprint" will shock many readers with the reasonableness, the cosmopolitan yet nationalist nature of its analysis and proposals. These are not characteristics usually identified with many of those involved in the drafting of the "Blueprint." However, those who drafted this policy paper have proven they have what is so desperately needed at the present time: open minds, reasonable but firm convictions, a willingness to discuss instead of dictate. I can't imagine a better demonstration of the weakness of the Ramos plan—a three in one, top-down, simplistic hard-sell—than the manner by which the "Blueprint" has been put together, and the way it's been offered to the public. The former is anchored on a disdain for the majority; the latter seeks to engage the majority.

My only misgiving about the "Blueprint" is that former President Estrada endorsed a "blueprint for a viable Philippines" on July 25, which suggests that the dangerous flirtation between the UP intelligentsia and Estrada continues. Make no mistake: the proponents of the "Blueprint" would demolish the old elite's stranglehold on power in order to establish and entrench a new elite. But that is the way of the world; it is how nations progress. The old must give way to the new. As I've said, we must embrace the new, particularly if all the old has to offer is fear of ourselves.

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog.

MY objection to the solutions being peddled by many of our politicians is that they are anchored on fear of and loathing for the people. No solution, motivated by distrust and hatred—more so, if it seeks to eliminate the participation (however superficial) of the many in government—can prosper or should be allowed to prosper.

Take the proposals to replace a nationally elected presidency with a prime minister elected by fellow members of parliament. The mentality that seeks the change is anchored on the proposition that the public cannot be trusted with the task of choosing those who should govern the country. There is whining and groaning about the evils of "popularity," but these come from those who happen to be unpopular. In normal life, this would be known as sour grapes. In politics, it is a "win-win" solution.

The supposedly stupid majority, who happen to be the poor and the less-educated, are blamed for a series of disastrous choices: the worst one apparently having been Joseph Estrada, with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo a close second. A third disaster, Fidel V. Ramos, is, of course, conveniently ignored because—in fairness to him—he was neither lazy, stupid, too greedy, nor too careless compared to his successors. Never loved by his people, he at least enjoyed the public's sublime indifference, which is better than the active hostility aimed at his successors.

However, to focus on the manner by which Estrada threw away his mandate (by failing to justify his human weaknesses with at least a sustained effort to do the work he was hired to do), or on Ms Arroyo's having never been loved and now, on her being neither respected nor feared, but simply endured as the lesser of so many evils, is to ignore the bigger picture. What's that picture? It is of a people, wise enough to overwhelmingly reject Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo at the polls, though stumped over the choice of an alternative.

In 1992, close to three out of every four voters (71.4 percent) felt FVR was not their idea of a presi-

OPINION

Can Filipinos do a Perlman?

HAVE you ever read about the inspiring performance of Itzhak Perlman in 1995? Perlman is an Israeli musician widely recognized as one of the great violinists of the late 20th century. A pride of Juilliard School in New York City, he is a living inspiration to many physically handicapped people who dream of making their mark in the world of music. Perlman is an advocate for the rights of the disabled. He was stricken with polio at age 4.

The magic of any Perlman performance begins with the moving sight of a man on crutches and with braces on both legs, making difficult strides to reach his seat on stage. Those who have seen this sight describe it as touching and painful.

Of his many sterling performances, his Nov. 18, 1995 concert at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York City remains most unforgettable to his fans. As he started playing a piece in the middle of the concert, one of the strings on his violin broke.

Time stood still for the audience after the string went off like gunfire. Just as it started to second-guess the man on stage, the audience was taken aback when Perlman closed his eyes and gave his conductor and the orchestra the cue to pick up where he had left off. With three stings on his violin, he defied the limitations of music and continued playing with conviction, passion and heart. Perlman didn't only pull it off; he also rendered the greatest performance of his life.

One could only imagine how the crowd stood in awe. It took a long moment of silence before the stunned audience could unleash ripples of applause. In concluding his performance, Perlman only had this to say: "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

I remembered this story just as my optimism about my country's future started to show some cracks. Today marks my 10th year in government and I can't help but

ask whether I have served my country well enough. The question emerged out of the painful realization that many of our well-meaning efforts in the past have been eroded by the uninspiring developments in recent times.

But Perlman said it right. It is indeed the artist's task to find out how much music can still be made with what he or she has left. Similarly, as Filipinos it is our task to find out how much we can do to help our country get back on its feet. Many of us have given almost everything we've got to the country, but the country's continuing struggle shouldn't stop us from giving whatever we have left. Remember: give, not give up.

Of course, this is easier said than done. But if each and every Filipino thinks and acts like Perlman, we will not only pull this one off, we will also deserve the world's standing ovation.

—RONALD A. RODRIGUEZ,
Brittany Bay at La Posada,
Sucat, Muntinlupa City

Harder life awaits GSIS pensioners

I AM a retired government employee who receives my Government Service Insurance System pension through the Land Bank of the Philippines. At my age (72 years old), I find no problem with this present mode of pension payment.

But lately, Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the GSIS, sent letters to GSIS pensioners, informing us that the remittance of GSIS pensions through the LandBank will be stopped effective Sept. 30, 2005. Therefore, from Oct. 1, 2005 and thereafter, our pension will be forwarded to us

through "crossed-checks" for deposit in any existing bank account, and withdrawn after the required clearing period. This new mode of pension payment will cause more inconvenience; it will also mean we are going to waste a lot of our time and effort before we make use of our pension.

We were also informed that old-age pensioners will also be issued the GSIS card in the very near future. This means the GSIS will automatically open for us a savings account with Garcia's favored Union Bank.

The trouble with this plan is that

there is no local Union Bank branch in our town. So instead of helping us, we feel we will suffer even more inconveniences. Moreover, we are not skillful in the use of Megalink, Bancnet or Express-net cards.

In this regard, this is our message to Garcia: Why fix things when they're not broken? Starting Oct. 1, you will make life hard for us old-age pensioners. For our sake, please abort your new pension payment scheme. You still have time to do this.

—ERNESTO DE LUNA,
Daet, Camarines Norte

A bigger crowd than Makati rally

THIS is a rejoinder to the INQUIRER news article, "Thousands cheer Arroyo," (PDI, 7/17/05) which estimated "those who came to Rizal Park at between 45,000 and 60,000."

I saw both the Makati demonstration and the Rizal Park rally on television. The latter dwarfed the former. In my estimate, the crowd at Luneta was more than 100,000 while the one at Makati was less than 30,000.

"Hakot!" they claimed. The Makati crowd was more "hakot." Members of leftist organizations were bused from the provinces and were given food allowance for three days, at the minimum. Those from Metro Manila came in hired jeeps.

For me, the real reason why the Makati demonstration paled in comparison to the Rizal Park rally was the theme, as well as the purpose of those who participated in that rally. The Luneta crowd was united for unity and prayer, and pledged to uphold the rule of law. The one at Makati carried different and contrasting objectives—from junta, to "revolutionary government" to Susan Roces for president.

Simply put, the Makati rally was for chaos. Those who joined it were very disunited. The large crowd that went to Luneta prayed for peace and for the healing of the wounds of this nation.

—LEONARDO KIRK I. GALANZA,
lkirkgalanza@yahoo.com

Employees' representatives approved registration rules for gov't unions

THIS is in response to the letter of Annie Enriquez-Geron, secretary general of the Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK), published last July 27. It appears that she mixed up the requirements for registration and accreditation of public sector unions.

We would like to clarify: Under the Amended Rules of EO 180, for purposes of registration, a public sector union must have as members at least 30 percent (this used to be 10 percent) of the rank-and-file employees in its organizational unit. The increase in the membership requirement was made upon the recommendation of the employees' duly elected representatives to the Public Sector Labor-Management Council (PSLMC).

The requirement of a higher percentage, which comes close to the "majority-support" requirement for the accreditation of employees' organizations, was made to enhance the mandate of employees' organizations and to strengthen them.

The minutes of the PSLMC meetings will attest to this. Likewise, in the Amended Rules, regional offices of a department, agency or office continue to be recognized as appropriate organizational units for purposes of registration.

To avoid confusion, the Amended Rules of EO 180 used the term "organizational unit" in relation to the registration of employees' unions; and "negotiating unit" in relation to accreditation. It, however, retained the definition of "organizational unit" found in the old rules.

Furthermore, the majority re-

quirement (50 percent + 1 of the rank-and-file employees of the agency) for the purpose of accreditation is required under EO 180 itself. The requirements for accreditation enumerated in the Amended Rules merely reiterate the provisions of EO 180 and other previously issued rules and regulations. Hence, for purposes of accreditation as the sole and exclusive negotiating agent, a registered employees' union must show proof that it has the majority support of the rank-and-file employees in the negotiating unit.

More importantly, it must be stressed that the Amended Rules of EO 180 was thoroughly discussed in the council meetings where the employees' representatives actively participated.

Finally, we would like to assure Geron that the commission and the PSLMC steadfastly adhere to the policy of promoting the free and responsible exercise of the right of government employees to self-organization. We also recognize the role of public sector unions as partners in improving public service delivery. This is amply illustrated by the fact that employees' unions were given representation in the PSLMC, even only in an observer capacity, pending the enactment of a law including them as regular members of the council.

Thank you and we hope that with this reply, we have clarified the matter.

—ANICIA MARASIGAN-DE LIMA,
director IV,
Personnel Relations Office,
Civil Service Commission,
(chair, PSLMC Secretariat),
pr@csc.gov.ph

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN					Teleserye	Ting ng Bayan (LIVE)	Mr. Bean	Narito	Opids	Motor Garden Season 2	Sento	Jones Cup	TV Patrol World	Misa Angeli Na Wang Lang!	Ramy Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Oh! Feel Young	Masala Mo Kaya Inq TV	Inakor
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor														
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championships (Day 7 Session 1)														
GMA 7	Saang Sukit Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shamen King	Full House														
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping EZ Shop	Defenders Of The Earth	Hay Amor!	Wild Thornberrys Home Shopping Network	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider											
IBC 13				EZ Shop	As Told By Ginger	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Joopop	EZ Shop											
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop															
Studio 23																			
MTV Philippines			MTV Get Spotted		Hangin Out at MTV														
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX														
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live															
ESPN	Pool/Spooker Rock 'Em Up 4		Major League Baseball																
Solar Sports			TV Shopping		WTA 2005														
Sports Plus					Get A Grip On Golf														
Cinemax					Celebrity Poker Tournament														
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	The Professionals Strong Medicine			Sesame Street														
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unleashed Bunnies	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command														
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China	Wild Discovery														
National Geographic		Megastar		Marine Machine	Science Of Scavengers														
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	X-Men Showdown											
Nickelodeon	Blue Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina: The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Cow At The Movies							
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fall	Mission Organization		Motto Mito	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unscrewed	Tyler's Ultimate	El Niño Weekend	Good Finds	Life & Style						
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful	CSI: Miami (Season 3)		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer	CSI: Miami (Season 3)											
AXN																			
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs	Best The Goats	Whipped															
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminate	Change of Heart	Sinfield											
HBO																			
Star Movies		The Ticket (3:15 PM)	Pure Country (3:25 PM)	Opps Girl Out (3:45 PM)															
Cinema One		Alibok sa Ulap																	
EWTV	St. Faustine: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angela (3:15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God														

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ang kabalitaan
Oheri Mercado
Dito lang sa



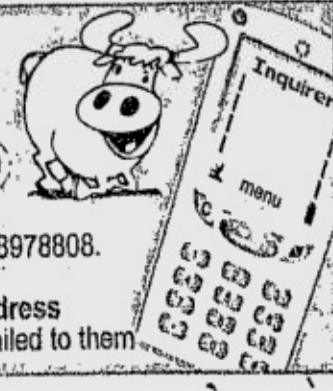
Question of the Week

Do you think that some witnesses who planned to testify in the jueteng investigations are being paid off or are being threatened to keep quiet?

Senders of d best 20 texts as published in Tuesday's InqBox will each receive an "Inquirer Shirt"!

Key in: inquirer box
name/age/city/message.
2207 (08:00-08:59 PM)
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
 Provincial winners can text:
 Inquirer ad name/age/city/mailling address
 to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them



INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

From rebel hotbed to trading hub

By Michael B. Jaucian
Ligao City

THE PLACE was no man's land and a picture of neglect more than a decade ago. Armed encounters between government soldiers and communist rebels had been ordinary scenes in the isolated, mountainous communities in Ligao City in Albay.

Today, the battleground is now a beehive of economic activities that sustain six villages with a combined population of over 10,000.

Pacita Lajara, 46, opened her sari-sari store in 2003 and was netting a daily income of P500 when the 10-hectare Upland Central Economic Zone (UCEZ) started operations. Her earnings have tripled since then, and she now operates a mini-grocery.

Other merchandise stores have sprouted in the zone, a convergent point of the upland barangays of Uma-Uma, Tiongson, Tandarora, Badbad, Tupas and Busac. But Lajara does not mind the competition.

"It's OK with me," she said, "What is important is that the basic needs of the community are being met."

Aside from a number of small sari-sari stores, the UCEZ has a mini fresh food market, grocery, a copra buying center and even a cockpit.

The ecozone is now considered the second busiest trading center in the city and has alleviated poverty in the area, according to Gov. Fernando V. Gonzalez, who was then Ligao mayor when he began the project.

"Many residents of the six villages have become entrepreneurs in their own right," he noted. He



THE UPLAND Central Economic Zone in Ligao City.

said that with the presence of various business establishments and ambulant vendors and the good patronage of the villagers, everyone has an opportunity to have a decent living.

Neglected

Before development started in 2001, the place had no road and means of fast transportation. The villagers traveled by foot or used carts pulled by carabaos to bring vegetables, copra and other crops to go to the city proper, 22 km away, to

sell their produce.

Mountainous, inaccessible and neglected, it was a perfect haven for New People's Army rebels.

Today, the upland community has a 14-km, 5-m wide cemented road connecting the zone from the main road. Transport vehicles keep the route busy.

Crops

When the INQUIRER visited the area in 2003, no crops were planted along the road. Today, most of the zone property have

been planted to hybrid peanut, papaya, cassava, banana, ginger, kamote (sweet potato), palay, pineapple and other high-value crops.

Most of the households inside or near the ecozone own color TV sets, video sets, stereo components and even new motorcycles that now serve as the primary means of transportation for their farm produce.

Socio-spiritual life

Two years ago, Ligao had only one motorcycle dealer, Gonzales

said. Now, it has six.

The UCEZ has greatly improved the economic, social and spiritual life of the people.

Rev. Fr. Ed Ramin of the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish said that since the local government built the economic zone, the villagers' way of life has become no longer different from that of the city folk.

The villagers, especially the children who used to be timid and shy, have become confident and sociable, Ramin said.

The children are the ones en-

couraging their parents to hear Mass, he said.

Seeing the promise of prosperity in the area, people from other areas have resettled or moved close to the community. They enjoy the economic, social and cultural activities, such as playing ball games, singing and dancing, and even watching news and movies on cable TV provided by the local government and positioned on a concrete table near the basketball court.

Farmer Romeo Pesito, 44, who is an original settler in the ecozone, claimed that since the establishment of the UCEZ, he has never felt lonely anymore.

Today, he said, he is very happy because after farm work, he has now plenty of recreational activities, including cockfighting. Yes, there is a cockpit.

Pesito said he used to walk several hours on barefoot just to sell his crops to the market. Sending his children to school and earning a livelihood was calvary to him.

Zero crime

According to Busac village chief Luis Pernia, the presence of farm-to-market roads and mechanized means of transport has made the villagers more productive, industrious and dedicated to farming. The villagers and the businessmen from the city, other provinces and even Metro Manila now find it very easy to transport their goods, he said.

Moreover, he said, there was no reported incident of crime against person or property.

"With this countryside development project, expansion of economy and creating employment won't be hard," Gonzales stressed.

Soon, he said, he would put up a drugstore and extensions of both a high school and a college in the area.

Ballerina keeps passion alive

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

FRIENDS and relatives of Delia Napay-Rebustillo deem it better for her to retire, relax and enjoy life after more than 50 years of giving rigorous training in basic ballet dancing to at least 1,000 students.

Madame Delia, as she is fondly called, turned 78 on Dec. 3. Despite her age, the dance instructress says her passion for the performing art is still very much.

And from the looks of it, she's still prepared to train 100 more students. For her, imparting her terpsichorean skills to those interested already means relaxing and enjoying life.

"Of the more than a thousand students, some just trained for a dance while others took ballet lessons for years, all experienced the discipline required to coordinate movements. They have gone beyond dance appreciation and have pursued dancing as their vocation," she recalls.

In a span of 50 years, she says, she can see a lot of maturity in terms of the awareness of Bicolanos about ballet dancing.

"During those times, only a few people appreciated it but I never gave up, so I tried and survived in showing to them the best and very artful side of it," Madame Delia says.

Aside from being a teacher and dance director of her own DNR Dance Ballet and Studio, which is also more than 50 years old now, she is a performing artist.

Madame Delia has spent more than half of her life in the fields of music, dance, art and poetry, and she feels nothing has changed in her passion for teaching, dancing and entertaining people in Albay although she may not be very physically active.

The ballerina received the 1999 Rokyaw Ibalnong Bicol Achievement Awards for her contributions as an artist, achiever and writer.

Reunion

During the golden anniversary of her dance school in the last week of November, she couldn't help admiring and reminiscing the remarkable performances of her Batch '70 students who gave her a tribute at the Sunshine International School in Daraga, Albay.

The occasion also became a grand reunion



MADAME DELIA

of her former students.

Forty-five of them presented 17 original dance and song performances, a repeat performance of some of the 170 major productions Madame Delia's school has made since 1954. These included the all-time local favorites—"Rinconada," "Daragang Magayon," "Pamulinawen," "Paseo" and "Butterflies."

Madame Delia is also a writer, poet and painter.

Her first book, "@ Seventy—A Dancer's Show in Oil," was published by the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House. It was launched together with 23 other books of prominent writers and authors of religious, scholarly and literary pieces, including Palanca awardee Cirilo Bautista and fellow Bicolana writer Erlinda Bobis, who wrote the popular "Cantata of Daragang Magayon."

Art runs in the family. Her father, Juanito Napay, was a cellist. Her mother Josefina was a pianist, while her Lola Jacinta was a known *jota* dancer in the 1800s.

All of her siblings play various kinds of musical instruments and all are good dancers.

The third in a brood of four children, she was the one versatile enough to excel both in dancing and playing musical instruments, such as the piano, *cielo*, guitar, violin and flute.

All of her four children had been her ballet students and had undertaken very strict and rigorous training. Even her grandchildren have been under her stage guidance.

"I would like to dedicate all of my achievements to God and to my family. They're but my inspiration and the very reason why I've come this far," Madame Delia said.

Her legacy started in the summer of 1954 in the downtown area of Legazpi City, while fresh from studying in Metro Manila under the patronage of French-American ballet instructors. Madame Delia founded the Legazpi Music and Ballet studio, now the DNR Dance Ballet and Studio.

Her father, then the provincial auditor, helped her put up the studio with the goal of inspiring and teaching music, as well as introducing ballet to the Albay youth.

Astoundingly, after a few months, she established two studios in Tabaco and Polangui towns in Albay.

Soon, Madame Delia introduced modern, jazz and folk dances.

PhilHealth's Sponsored Program: Pursuing a Noble Cause Despite the Odds

It is considered the heart of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and is, in fact, a cause that no other organization would have wanted to pursue, given the intricacies of its implementation. But guided by its mandate to ensure that all Filipinos, regardless of economic standing, are provided with health insurance coverage, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) continues to see the Sponsored Program through, no matter what the obstacles are.

What is the Sponsored Program?

It was in 1997 when the first local government unit (LGU), the province of Abra, forged ties with PhilHealth for the enrolment of its indigent residents into the Sponsored Program. Back then, the program was called Indigent Program. Priority for coverage under the said program at that time were areas identified under the Social Reform Agenda of then President Fidel V. Ramos who issued Administrative Order 277 calling on PhilHealth to focus its efforts on the poorest 25 percent of the entire RP population.

The Program primarily entails the enrolment of the less privileged members of society into PhilHealth. Through this mechanism, the medical care benefits that seemed unreachable to the poor were already available to them, through the auspices of the sponsoring LGU and of the National Government through PhilHealth.

Among these medical care benefits were allowances for hospital room and board fees for the principal member and his legal dependents, for x-ray and other laboratory exams, for the use of the operating room complex, as well as for the professional fees of the attending physicians. A set of out-patient diagnostic benefits is also available for the enrolled families at PhilHealth-accredited rural health units, aside from the regular out-patient benefits ranging from chemotherapy, radiotherapy, cataract extraction and minor surgical procedures.

How are the enrolled families chosen?

When PhilHealth started implementing the Sponsored Program in the late-'90s, it employed a selection mechanism called Community-Based Information System - Minimum Basic Needs (CBIS-MBN) where families were carefully screened to ensure that they indeed, deserved the benefit but cannot afford to shoulder the annual premium contribution to the Program. It took PhilHealth several months after the initial screening process to finally ascertain the list and the efforts paid off well.

Today, the screening process begins with the submission by the LGU of a list of the indigent families in their localities, based on the listing of the local Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). PhilHealth, through its enumerators, administers the Family Data Survey Form (FDSF) and validates the results using economic and other parameters that will ascertain the eligibility of the families

in the list. Once validation is completed, PhilHealth bills the LGU for their share in the annual premium of the families and releases the Family Health Cards when payment, or at least a Certificate of Fund Availability (CAF) is issued by the LGU. An orientation on how the Card may be used follows at the LGU level.

How much do LGUs pay annually?

The annual premium contribution of each enrolled indigent family is pegged at P1,200. The sharing scheme between the National Government and the LGU depends on the income classification of the LGU that is sponsoring the enrolment. First to third class cities and municipalities equally share the financial burden with the National Government for the entire duration of the program. On the other hand, the premium contribution of fourth to sixth class LGUs are progressively increased and these are only made equal to that of the National Government only when they are upgraded to 1st, 2nd or 3rd class categories.

Is the sponsorship limited to LGUs?

Almost ten years after the initial steps toward program implementation were made, PhilHealth has secured the support of over 1,488 LGUs around the archipelago, regardless of political affiliation. This is an indication that more and more local government officials have seen the beauty of the program, especially where providing their needy constituents with access to quality health care services is concerned.

The Sponsored Program has equally gained the trust and confidence of sponsors from the private sector including socially responsible companies and philanthropic individuals who have taken on the financial role of the LGUs.

GlaxoSmithKline, for one, has enrolled over 10,000 indigent families from Quizon City, Manila, Taytay, Calinta, Iloos Norte, Tacloban and other project sites since 2002. Now on its third year of implementation, GSK and PhilHealth foresee a cost-sharing mechanism with the families enrolled in the program, to instill in them a sense of dignity especially where their health care needs are concerned.

Various chapters of the Rotary Club, Lions Club and Inner Wheel Clubs nationwide, as well as religious organizations, credit cooperatives, banks, schools, and medical societies have similarly paid for the enrolment of indigent families, bringing to fore the Filipino spirit of *bayanihan*. Caring individuals like Engr. Gregorio Macaraig of Sta. Maria, Laurel, Batangas and Isagani V. Fuentes of Davao City have also enabled poor families to access quality health care, a dream they have been wanting to realize.

A worthy cause to support

Despite the political issues hounding it recently, the Sponsored Program continues to knock on the doors of those who are willing to share their good fortune to the less privileged sector. It continues to appeal to corporate citizens about to embark on their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and help bring the good news on health to as many needy Filipinos as possible.

So the next time you think of a worthy cause to support, take the Sponsored Program of PhilHealth in mind and experience the joy of being able to help the less fortunate, by ensuring that they have medical care coverage, whenever and wherever they need it most.

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Cavite gov decries connivance to have him ousted from post

TRICE MARTIRES CITY—Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi has scored the administration for allegedly conniving with the Remulla clan to ensure his ouster as governor following his recent falling out with the national leadership.

Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla earlier told media that he was filing a complaint at the Ombudsman against Maliksi for violation of the anti-graft law.

The case was in relation to the alleged "ghost purchase" of rice where Maliksi reportedly profited at least P5 million.

The governor branded the allegation as a complete lie, saying the questioned transaction was aboveboard and properly documented.

"As in other transactions of the office of the governor, it was routinely submitted to the provincial board where the vice governor himself sits as presiding officer," he explained.

Maliksi had joined Senate President Franklin Drilon and other local Liberal Party stalwarts in bolting the administration coalition and in calling for the impeachment of President Arroyo.

He is one of the very few governors in the country who have made such a call.

He claimed that the Remullas saw this as a perfect opportunity to engage Malacanan in an unholy political alliance.

Maliksi accused Ms Arroyo of vengefulness and of plotting his

suspension from office to pave the way for Remulla's ascension to office as governor.

"My fear is that since the Ombudsman has the power to suspend public officials for a period of up to six months, this new complaint was deliberately resorted to in order for Jonvic to assume the reins of the provincial government without having been duly elected to the post," Maliksi said.

He said he feared that Malacanan would influence Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo but if only to erase his doubts, Maliksi said he had written the Ombudsman asking for fairness and due process in resolving Remulla's complaint.

Maliksi cited the Ombudsman's fairness in a previous case also filed by Remulla, questioning the compromise agreement signed by the Cavite government with the owners of the land now occupied by the provincial capitol.

The Ombudsman denied Remulla's motion in the case, seeking Maliksi's preventive suspension, he said.

The Court of Appeals also dismissed his petition seeking the annulment of the compromise agreement.

However, at that time, he said, the country was not yet in political turmoil because people were not asking for the President's resignation.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cebu City under calamity state due to dengue cases

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Officials have declared the entire city under a state of calamity because of the alarming increase in dengue cases.

Since January, a total of 669 dengue cases have been reported in the city, with the number still rising, health officials warned.

At least 18 persons, mostly children, have died of dengue fever. The latest casualties were reported on Monday.

Dr. Fe. Cabugao, city health officer, considered this figure "very alarming" as it represented a 70 percent increase in the number of dengue cases reported over the same seven-month period last year.

Cabugao said she already submitted to Councilor Christopher Alix, chair of the city council committee on health, the list of chemicals and pieces of equipment that should be purchased for the city's anti-dengue campaign.

The city government has appropriated at least P4.5 million for the campaign against the spread of dengue.

Cabugao said the money will not only be used to buy fogging machines and chemicals but also to provide health care for victims confined

at the Cebu City Medical Center.

Cabugao, however, noted the lack of awareness and cooperation of the people in the city government's campaign against dengue.

Cabugao stressed that while the declaration of the city in a state of calamity will help the anti-dengue campaign because more money will be available to buy chemicals and other equipment, it would not be the most effective solution to prevent the breeding of *Aedes aegypti*, the daylight-biting dengue-causing mosquito.

"Our goal standard is to dispose everything that holds water, we should clean our surrounding," Cabugao said.

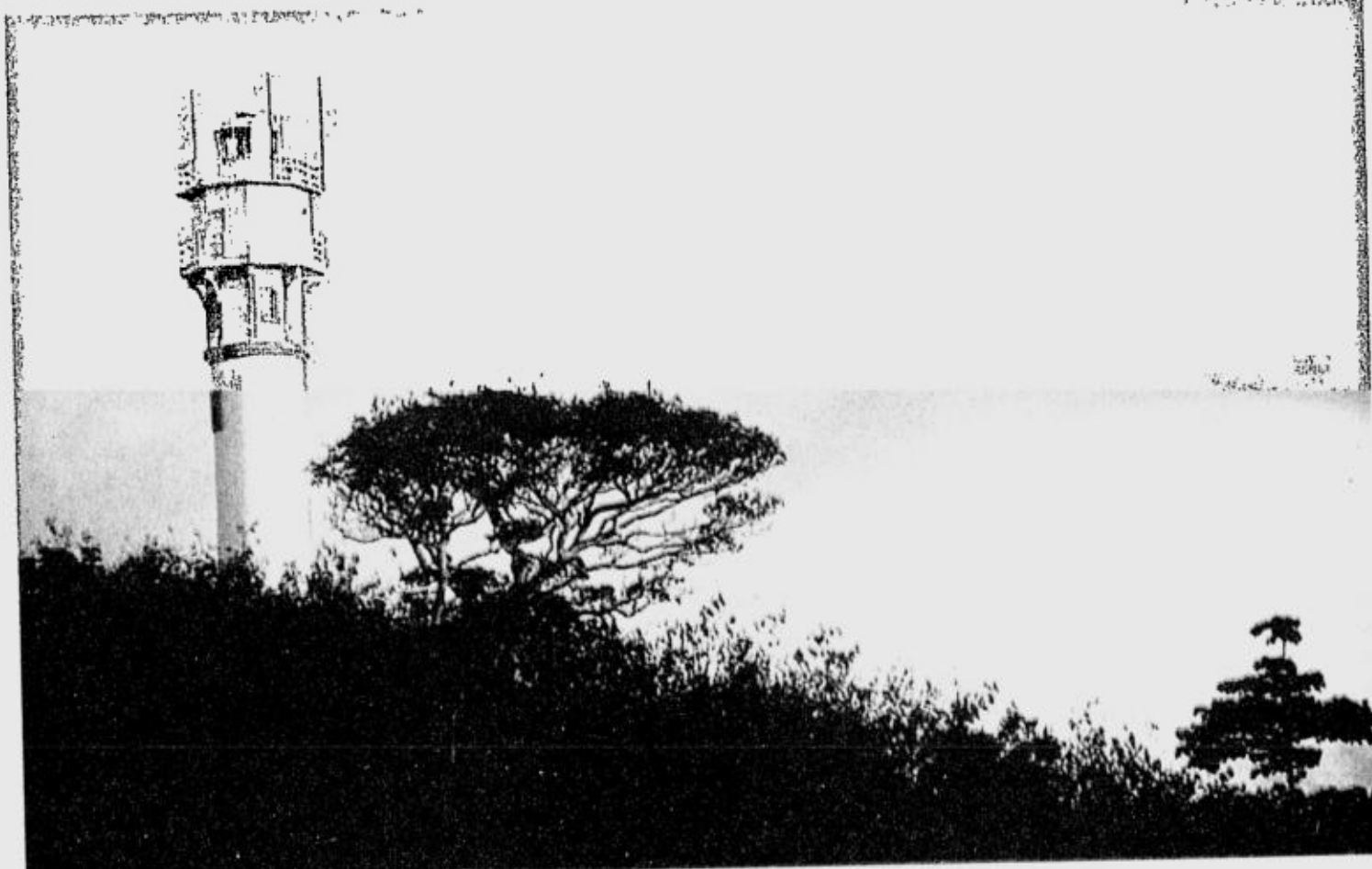
The Cebu City epidemiology department has reported a sharp rise of over a hundred dengue cases in just a

week—from 546 cases with 16 deaths recorded in July to 669 cases with 18 deaths as of Aug. 9, according to records obtained from assistant city epidemiologist Edgar Pangue.

Pangue lamented that the patients were only brought to the hospital when their condition had already turned serious.

City health records showed that the latest victim, for example, a 7-year-old girl from Apas, was brought to the Perpetual Succor Hospital at 4:30 p.m. on Monday and died two hours later. Another victim, an 11-year-old boy from Banawa, was brought to the Cebu Doctors Hospital on July 30 and died on Aug. 1.

The rise in the number of dengue cases was attributed by some health officials to the rainy season that the entire country is experiencing now.



BOLINAO SUNSET

A lighthouse stands out in the horizon as the sun sets in Bolinao, Pangasinan.

YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

ROUNDUP

Rangers kill rebel in Albay

A NEW PEOPLE'S Army rebel was killed while three others were wounded and four were captured by members of the 8th Scout Ranger Company following an encounter in Barangay Catumag, Guinobatan, Albay at 10 a.m. on Aug. 8. Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, spokesman of the Philippine Army, said the slain rebel was identified as Ronie Palenzuela alias Benjie while the captured rebels were identified as Arnel Alvarez alias Bong, Nomeriano Padre Y de la Torre alias Marko, Ernie Ordone and Asencion Ocsina, all members of the NPA's Urban Sectoral Group. One soldier, Pfc Wenny Constantino, was wounded in the encounter. The Rangers, led by Sgt. Artemio Apostol, were on patrol when they encountered 15 rebels. The wounded soldier was airlifted to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital for treatment while the slain rebel was brought to Guinobatan.

Team formed to solve murders

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The top police official in Central Luzon on Monday created a task force to solve the murder of two traders in Cabanatuan City last week. Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, regional police director, also sent 81 policemen from the regional mobile group to Nueva Ecija to help the provincial police solve the murder of Gina Batisan, 43, and Gregorio Santos, 49. The policemen will also reinforce forces in checkpoints that will be established in some sections of the city, Lapinid said. Reports said one of two men aboard a motorcycle shot Batisan in the head while she was in front of her house in Barangay Aduas Centro on Aug. 3. Batisan was involved in a money lending business. Santos, a resident of Barangay San Jose Norte in Cabanatuan, was gunned down as he was playing video games with his two sons at a shopping mall on Aug. 7. According to the police, Santos was implicated in a murder case in March this year.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

6 Lanao execs linked to drugs

MARAWI CITY—The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) identified at least six Lanao del Sur executives behind the illegal drug trade in the province. Ansari Alonto, a PDEA director, told reporters the suspects include five town mayors and a vice mayor. Alonto, who also heads the Task Force Garuda, an anti-drug body, declined to name the officials and the towns where they are serving as local executives. But he said one of the mayors has connections with the Hong Kong Triad. "So he's not just small time. Even the others who are involved are also into large scale operations," he said. Alonto said the drugs coming from Lanao del Sur also reach Northern Mindanao. Another PDEA source said Senior Supt. Lina Sarmiento has already signed the order of battle against the alleged drug lords operating in the province.

Int'l container port planned in north Quezon

LUCENA CITY—After the calamity that struck northern Quezon last year that left thousands of people killed and millions of pesos worth of property destroyed, an ambitious international container port will soon be constructed in the area to help spur economic growth and development.

"Our coast can provide a long berthing space. We have vast

tracts of government land for the container-storage space. Fronting the busy South Pacific nautical highway, we have excellent location for the planned container port," Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes told the INQUIRER.

He said Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns have the potentials of an ideal international container port with its

long coastline, deep sea and vast track of idle lands. The lawmaker predicted that the proposed international container ports would attract cargo traffic.

"Commercial ships and vessels coming from the US, Canada and Japan pass by the China Sea in going to our piers. If a container port is put up in the area, the vessels' travel time would be re-

duced by a minimum of three hours. Traffic in Manila would also be greatly reduced," Nantes explained.

He added that there are now several groups of prospective investors.

Nantes predicted that Quezon would be known as the hub of international cargo traffic. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Murder raps filed vs 2 suspects in killing of broadcaster

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Murder charges have been filed against at least two suspects in the death of radio broadcaster Rolando Morales, police said.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Central Mindanao, said among those

charged was Federico Saripa, one of the suspected masterminds.

Diocos said the other suspect who was charged before the Department of Justice in Manila was the reported triggerman, Sonny Dimol.

Morales was on his way home July 3 when he was waylaid by

motorcycle riding men near Polomolok town.

Despite the identification of some suspects, the police said they could still not determine the real motive of the killing.

But Morales' colleagues at dxMD Radyo Agong here said they believed a drug syndicate

was behind his death.

Morales had been commenting against the proliferation of illegal drugs in Polomolok town.

Diocos said only Dimol remains at large because a warrant has yet to be issued for his arrest.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

300 Aurora families ask DENR for share of wood to rebuild homes

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—Some 300 residents in Dingalan, Aurora, who were left homeless by flash floods and landslides last year staged a rally on Wednesday to ask the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to set aside wood for them to rebuild their homes.

The protest action was held as the DENR resumed on Wednesday the retrieval of trees uprooted by last year's flash floods and landslides in Aurora and Quezon.

Cesar Martin, spokesperson of the Multi-Sectoral Group of Dingalan (MSGD), an alliance of 14 groups in the town, asked DENR

regional officials in a dialogue to put priority on housing assistance.

Martin said the town government failed to help residents rebuild their houses. He said local officials did not account for the volume of wood recovered in the town since January.

Only less than 50 of 1,000 families were resettled in the last 10 months, Martin said.

Regidor de Leon, DENR regional executive director in Central Luzon, said the 4,000 cubic meters of logs gathered by the DENR's Natural Resources Development Corp. were intact at the Yama

sawmill in the town's Barangay Aplaya.

The retrieval of some 100,000 cubic meters of trees scattered in mountains and riverbanks and which heavy rains threaten to loosen was ordered by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor on Aug. 2.

The operation aims to "avoid a repeat" of disasters that struck Aurora and Quezon on the heels of four typhoons in November and December last year.

Almost 1,000 people died and about 5,000 families were left homeless from flash floods and landslides spawned by the typhoons.

In the dialogue, De Leon assured residents and MSGD members that portions of the recovered logs would be allocated to the housing needs of victims, as the National Disaster Coordinating Council has ordered.

Martin said the DENR should also set aside logs for 3,000 families that would be relocated from seven villages considered "high risk" to landslides and flash floods.

De Leon said the local government would still be involved in the recovery work that would be covered by a "clearer set of guidelines and stricter monitoring."

Martin suggested that residents and people's organizations in the town be involved in the operation.

De Leon said logs cut before Dec. 8, 2004 log ban imposed by Defensor or uprooted in logging concession areas would be collected by timber permit holders.

A DENR survey found that 3,180.64 cubic meters were within the 28,000-hectare estate of the Green Circle Properties and Resources at the Uniray border of Aurora and Quezon.

The MSGD, according to Martin, was asserting the right of the people to own and

use these logs.

"There is a disaster and the victims deserved to benefit from natural resources that are public property," he told the INQUIRER.

Three more timber companies want to sell their wood to recover investments lost to the disaster.

De Leon said the DENR's log ban order is "still in force and effect."

Personnel guarding DENR checkpoints have been replaced to ensure strict monitoring of transport of uprooted trees and their byproducts like charcoal, he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Science high school, neighbor to dengue ground zero, unfazed

By DJ Yap

THOUGH its campus is just across the street from Sitio San Roque, a squatter area which has recently been hit by dozens of dengue cases, the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) is taking the apparent outbreak in stride.

So far, the school has been spared from the mosquito-carried illness that has claimed the lives of eight children in Barangay Bagong Pag-asa and downed dozens of others, said school nurse Melindre Gaston.

Some students have reported

feeling ill, but these are generally just fever or viral infection cases, she said, adding that no student has tested positive for dengue.

Officer-in-charge Jessamyn Yazon said Philippine Science School grounds just had its annual fumigation last July 1.

A week before that, a larval test yielded negative results for mosquito infestation, she said.

The campus, which sits on Agham Road in Diliman, opposite San Roque, is also regularly cleaned, she added.

There were no immediate plans

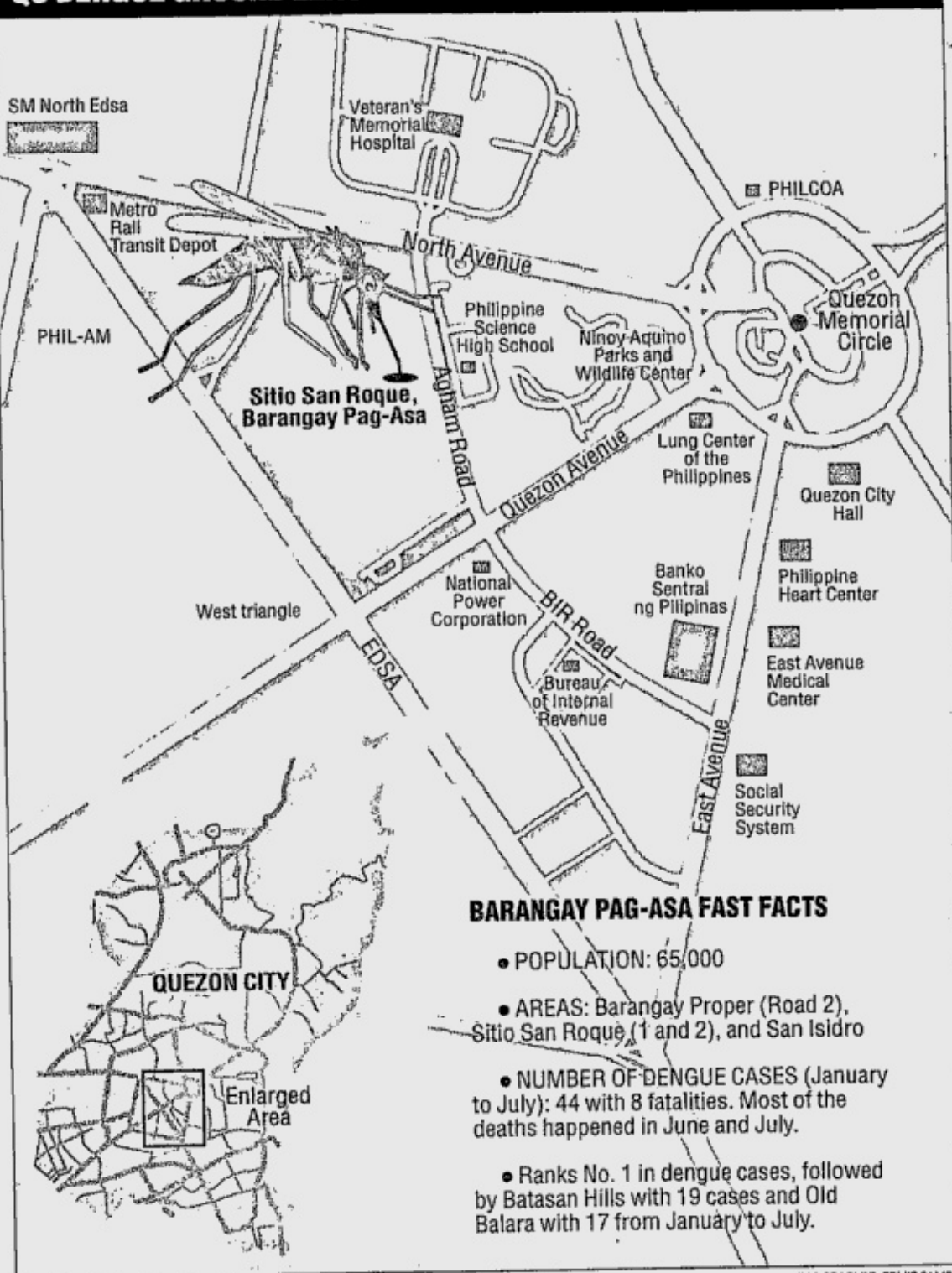
to suspend classes, Yazon said.

Gaston said students who report feeling ill were usually advised to go home, if they lived near the area, and to seek medical attention.

Bagong Pag-asa Elementary School earlier suspended its classes for the week to give way to cleanup operations.

Since June, the Bagong Pag-asa area had recorded 44 dengue victims, with 8 fatalities, mostly in Sitio San Roque 1 and 2, a sprawling squatter community, said Ricky Bajarias, barangay administrator.

QC DENGUE GROUND ZERO



NWRB PATIENCE DRIES UP

Water board goes after illegal wells

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE NATIONAL Water Resources Board (NWRB) sealed off an illegal water source of the Landmark Mall in Makati City yesterday following reports that the establishment continued to source water from a deep well that was ordered closed last year.

Landmark, one of the oldest malls at the Ayala Center, was found to be unlawfully drawing about 3,300 cubic meters of water a month through its illegally constructed deep well, enough to meet the demand of at least 110 households.

NWRB executive director Ramon Alikpala and the NWRB monitoring team barred yesterday with copper wires a pipe system shown by Landmark engineers as the connection to the well's borehole casing.

Since construction

"Obviously they've had it since they constructed (the mall)... We will have to validate later if there is only one pipe connected to the borehole," Alikpala said.

The NWRB issued a cease-and-desist order against Landmark in October last year after it discovered that the mall had been extracting groundwater from the aquifers without a permit from the government.

Alikpala and his team inspected Landmark's water supply system amid a rude reception by Conchita

Lee, assistant to the executive vice president and Noel R. Tolin, Landmark engineering head.

"You're asking for the deep well, right? Well, it's underground. It's down here if you want to see it," a smirking Tolin said, stamping his feet on the pavement outside Landmark to indicate the location of the deep well.

Digging the sidewalk

Alikpala said he was mulling asking Ayala properties to allow the NWRB to dig a hole through the part of the sidewalk identified by Tolin as the location of the well to ensure that Landmark was not making up a story.

"Why did you have to bring the media? What are they going to do here? We're not hiding anything, but we will not let you inside if you insist on bringing the media," Lee said.

Lee physically brushed away members of the media who covered the NWRB inspection, shoving two TV reporters as she yelled at photographers and cameramen because they "had no permit to cover."

After a 20-minute heated debate, Landmark executives allowed Alikpala and the NWRB engineers inside the mall's underground water supply system to show the disconnected pipe that would supposedly prove the mall had stopped using its deep well.

The mall consumes about 4,000 cubic meters of water every

month, said Landmark executives. They also claimed that they had shut down the deep well "for months," Alikpala said, recounting their discussion.

Less water consumption

Data from the Manila Water Services Inc., which supplies water to Makati City, however, showed that Landmark had been officially consuming only 700 cubic meters of water the past months based on their water bill.

"How can that be? They have to be getting their water from somewhere. Where would they get their water if their deep well has been closed?" Alikpala said.

Observers also noted that the pipe, which has been supposedly disconnected for months, was still wet when the NWRB team inspected it.

"We need to send a stronger message to violators that we will not stand for unregulated deep wells," Alikpala said.

"Metro Manila is already in critical condition. There is saline intrusion in our aquifers. Where would we get our groundwater if the supply from Angat Dam runs out?" he said.

The NWRB has identified illegal deep wells as among the biggest causes of undetermined water loss due to unregulated extraction. The agency is looking at other erring firms in Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan and Quezon cities.

Driver's body found on road, says BF

HER SEARCH is over but it has only brought her more pain.

"We found him," Fely De Vera, 46, said yesterday, referring to her husband Elpidio, 56, who disappeared in the tumultuous water of the Marikina River Saturday night.

De Vera's body was found in the Pasig River, in Barangay Pineda, Pasig City, three days after his Tamaraw FX was swept into the river.

His vehicle was fished out of the river the following day but he

remained missing for several days.

The Marikina City Rescue Unit launched search operations but had a difficult time because of the intermittent rain and the tumultuous water of the river.

De Vera's body was found floating in the Pasig River at about 5:30 p.m. by the crew of a barge, the City Rescue Unit also said.

His body was already bloated after three days of being under water.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT'S JUST a matter of being cautious

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday fended off the blame for road accidents involving its concrete barriers.

"If only drivers give proper attention to [road] signs and markings, we believe accidents involving U-turn slot concrete barriers could be significantly reduced or avoided," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said in a statement.

The agency issued the statement as a rebuttal to what it cited was earlier reports that blamed the agency for an accident on Saturday on Commonwealth Avenue, where five vehicles were involved in a pile up, purportedly caused by concrete barriers on the road.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Four Pinays sold for sex to Malaysians return home

By Volt Contreras

A GROUP of Filipino women, earlier "sold" to prostitution rings for P3,000 each in Malaysia, made it back to Manila yesterday after being rescued in an antihuman trafficking operation.

Four women, all hailing from Mindanao, applied for jobs as entertainers in Brunei but ended up

in nightclubs in Labuan, Malaysia, where their handlers allegedly had kept them detained since May, according to the Department of Justice.

Word about their ordeal reached the DOJ after two of their co-workers escaped from the clubs and reported to authorities upon returning to their hometown, said Assistant

Chief State Prosecutor Severino Gana Jr.

The four were rescued by Malaysian authorities, whose assistance was sought by the DOJ and the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force headed by Director Reynaldo Jaylo.

A Malaysian informant, a friend of Gana's, helped locate the women.

The women arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at around 3 p.m. yesterday on board Malaysian Airlines flight 704 from Kuala Lumpur.

Arriving in Malaysia last May 28, the women were made to work at Golden Key KTV and Tip Top Club in Labuan.

This was after their recruiters, who earlier promised them jobs

in Brunei, sold them for 3,000 ringgits each to the club owners, Gana said.

Davao police have identified the recruiters as Rosalyn Dumot, Jovelyn Anella and three John Does, and have filed charges of human trafficking and large-scale illegal recruitment against them at the municipal trial court in Carmen, Davao del Norte.

The uncaring Kidney Center

SUPPOSEDLY one of the safest places to be, aside from inside a church, is a hospital.

But Leon Celiz Jr., 28, doesn't think so.

Celiz was watching over his mother, who had just undergone a dialysis, at the Kidney Center of the Philippines, when a bullet hit the glass window of the room where his mother was staying.

Glass shards flew, hitting Celiz in his right eye.

The bullet came from a gun that Jeogard Mabburang, one of the hospital's security guards, was toying with.

Celiz ran to the hospital's emergency room to seek first aid treatment. Doctors and nurses there didn't attend to him. They told him to go to another hospital because Kidney Center did not have facilities to treat eye wounds.

By gad! It was the hospital's fault that Celiz suffered that kind of fate. And yet he was being driven out of the hospital and told to seek treatment in another hospital!

The doctors and nurses changed their minds and got Celiz an ambulance to take him to the East Avenue Medical Center after his sister interceded for him.

At the East Avenue Medical Center, Celiz was told that the hospi-

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



tal's operating room was unusable. So, the poor guy had to be rushed to the Far Eastern University Hospital in Fairview.

Because it took a long time for Celiz to get emergency treatment, he might lose the sight of his right eye.

An intricate and expensive eye operation is needed to save his eyesight. But when Celiz went to the Kidney Center to ask that it defray the expenses for his eye operation, he was told that the hospital board would still have to decide on his request.

Omgosh! What kind of people are there at the Kidney Center?

Some landowners in Bulacan want to bulldoze their way into landing contracts for their property in connection with the relocation of families to be displaced by the Northrail project.

The Northrail project aims to modernize the old Philippine Na-

tional Railways line from Metro Manila to the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

The concerned landowners are throwing brickbats at National Housing Authority General Manager Federico Laxa by accusing him and his cousin, former action star Tony Ferrer, of conflict of interest. They say Laxa and Ferrer bought and developed the 9-hectare Lambakin Resettlement project in Marilao, Bulacan.

But can they accuse Laxa and Ferrer of "conflict of interest" when their names do not even appear in the company's records at the Securities and Exchange Commission?

The landowners also allege that Laxa and Ferrer promised those who would support the Marilao project would be made ghost employees for six months at P10,000 a month in a municipal government in Pampanga. This is absurd because Laxa is not connected with any government unit and therefore, has no clout to appoint anyone to any position in any town.

And his cousin Tony Ferrer? He has never been involved in politics and is living a simple life as a retired actor.

Kawawa naman itong si Pareng Tony. He didn't know what hit him.

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Honest cabbie gives back P150,000 cash

By Tarra V. Quismundo

LIFE is hard for this father of two from Taguig. But it is an honest living.

On Sunday, 28-year-old part-time taxi driver Reio Lance turned his cab about and drove back to the Manila Domestic Airport in Pasay City to return P150,000 to his passenger.

It turned out, his worried passenger, Annie Joy Angana, had borrowed the money from a relative to pay for a crucial operation of her daughter, Gwyneth.

Gwyneth has brain tumor. Angana left her bag in the backseat of Lance's taxi, after getting off to catch an 8:45 a.m. flight back to Cotabato.

Yesterday, the Taguig City government recognized the deed of



Lance, who also has to sell *balut* and *sampaguita* to provide for his young family.

"Good things happen to people who do good things," said a statement of Taguig Mayor Freddie Tiña, who promised to subsidize the education of Lance's children: Reiozel, 5, and Rhazelle, 3.

MANILA KIDNAPPING

Boy abducted in Tondo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

HE NEVER made it to school.

An 11-year-old boy was abducted by at least five armed men as he stepped out of the family-owned building in Tondo, Manila, yesterday morning.

Manila Police District (MPD) director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the boy was about to attend class at a Chinese school a few blocks from home when the suspects alighted from a gray Toyota Lite Ace van (TAH 958) at 6:45 a.m.

Bulaong said two of the suspects used a "stun gun" to immobilize the boy and prevent him from struggling.

The kidnappers then dragged

him away from the Rich Town Tower Building at 1417 Mayhaligue Street which the boy's family owned.

Security guards Joel Boneo, 32, and Edwin Guevarra, 27, tried to help but were shot by another kidnapper armed with an M-16 assault rifle.

Bystanders Mario Michael Uy, 37, a salesman of 176-D Asuncion St., Caloocan City; housemaid Jenevive Magbanua, 20, also of Asuncion St., Caloocan City; Cezar Chen, 41, an employee of 1717 Andalucia St., Sampaloc, Manila; and student Abigail Chen, 11, also of Sampaloc, sustained minor gunshot wounds during the shootout.

After dragging the boy into the

van, the kidnappers sped toward Severino Street, Bulaong said.

"It appears that the kidnappers targeted the boy because they singled him out even though he had three other young companions," Bulaong said, adding that the victim's family also owned the pawnshop beside the building.

Bulaong said his men already identified the registered owner of the van.

"The suspects may have possibly abducted the boy for ransom," the police chief said.

Witnesses described one of the suspects as about 30 to 35 years old, 5'3" tall, fair-complexioned, and wearing long blue pants and a white t-shirt with a headband.

Another suspect was described

as about 30 years old, 5'4" in height, and wearing long denim pants and a brown polo shirt.

The reported abduction occurred while the national police is supposed to be on heightened alert against kidnappings.

It also happened within weeks of President Macapagal-Arroyo's claim that kidnapping as a menace in the country has been solved.

Two weeks ago, police even showed a draft of a new poster of wanted kidnapping suspects.

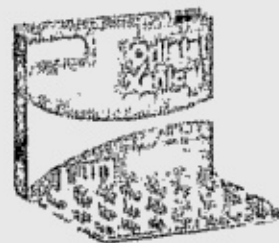
"I don't have any exact figure right now, but there has been a very sharp increase in kidnapping cases from June to August," said anti-kidnapping advocate Teresita Ang-See. With Edson Tandoc Jr.



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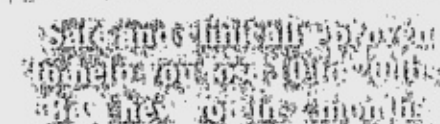
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What should I do to start?

First, you must have the right attitude. Improve your eating habits. Avoid fatty food or else you will undo the Xenical weight loss effect. Second, take your vital measurements (waistline and weight in pounds). Record them in your diary. This will give you a benchmark to track your weight loss progress over the next few months while taking Xenical.

How safe is Xenical?

Xenical is safe for individuals aged 12 years and above. Xenical is non-systemic -- meaning Xenical does not act by entering the bloodstream but only acts in the stomach to stop the absorption of fat, and then it is flushed out of your system.

How do I take Xenical?

- Take one capsule of Xenical with each of the 3 main meals per day.
- Don't waste the opportunity to lose weight with Xenical by continuing to eat badly! Eating too much causes excess weight. Now is the time to stop consuming high calorie fatty foods to allow the Xenical action to completely work.
- This is Xenical's added benefit: it teaches you how to discipline yourself to avoid foods that are not good for your health.

Should I take Xenical if I am on a diet?

Yes. Clinical studies have shown that when taken with a calorie reduced diet, Xenical will increase the amount of weight loss by 51%³.

- 1 - IMS (PADDs), Dec. 2004
- 2 - Medical Journal of Diabetes Care, Vol. 27, No. 1, Jan 2004 issue by Jarl S. Torgerson MD, PHD, et al
- 3 - John Foreyt, Ph.D., Kristine Nijpjer M.P.H., RD and Louise Aronne, M.D., F.A.C.P., The Xenical Advantage: How to use the remarkable new FDA-approved drug to lose weight faster and keep it off safely and effectively (New York: Simon & Schuster Inc., 1999), 22-23.

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GOLF: US PG Championship, Day One; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; ESPN—The last major of the year tees off from Jersey.

BASEBALL: MLB—Dodgers vs A's; 7 a.m. (3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—LA and Oakland take on each other in this California inter-league battle.

BASKETBALL: NBA Rocky Mountain Revue—Jazz vs Hawks; 8 a.m. (11 p.m.); Solar Sports.



Compiled by L. Mangiat

THURSDAY,
AUGUST 11, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A17

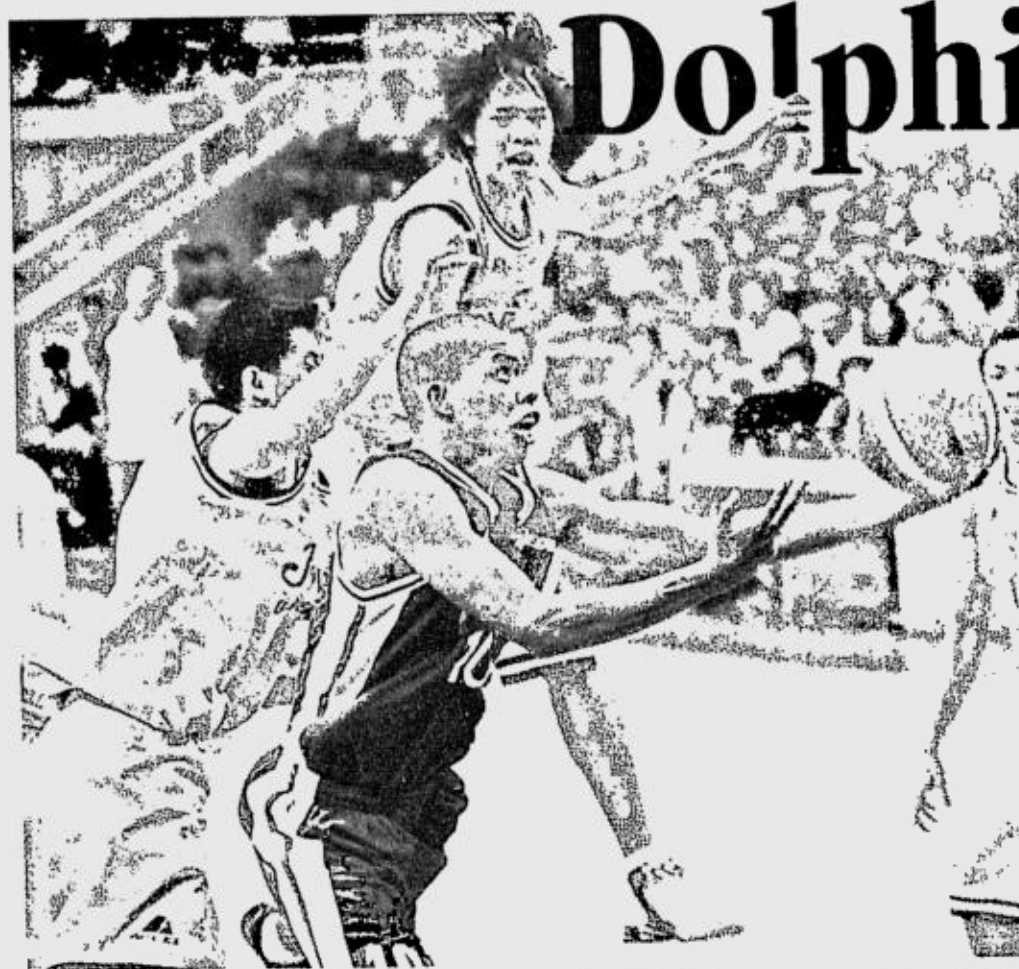
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WITNESS THE 1ST AREA ELIMINATIONS ON AUG. 13 & 14 AT WEST DRIVE BADMINTON, BARANGAY KAPITOLYO, PASIG AND WIN EXCITING BADMINTON PREMIUM ITEMS!



PCU Dolphins' Gabriel Espinas goes for a lay-up against JRU Bombers Raymund Jorge (back) and Floyd Dedicatoria in yesterday's game at the Cuneta Astrodome.

By Jasmine W. Payo

PHILIPPINE Christian U again flashed murderous form as the Dolphins crushed the Jose Rizal U Bombers, 67-51, in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"It's good that they responded well," said PCU coach Baculi, who earlier expressed concern with the sub-par performance of his starters. "I'm satisfied. Our second stringers are also stepping up and that's a good sign for us."

Gabby Espinas was back to his old aggressive form, finishing with 15 points and nine rebounds as the Dolphins improved their record to 8-2, just a win away from a sure seat in the Final Four. The Letran Knights took the first semifinal slot after extending their winning streak to nine games last Monday. In the second game, the Mapua

GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Jrs)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Srs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs SSC (Srs)
6 p.m.—Perpetual vs SSC (Jrs)

Cardinals recovered from back-to-back upset losses with a 75-61 triumph over the St. Benilde Blazers.

Joferson Gonzales pumped in 21 points before the senior forward was sidelined by cramps in the final period. "I told the players that if we wanted this game, our bread and butter should be our full court zone press," said coach Horacio Lim after the Cardinals remained in third place at 6-4. "I told them not to be quitters even if we lost two games in a row."

The Blazers absorbed their seventh straight loss even as the Bombers fell to 2-8.

A 9-0 spurt pushed the Dolphins up by 14 points, 49-35, after the Bombers had trimmed their lead to 40-35 in the third quarter.

The Dolphins sustained their strong shooting performance in the fourth

quarter with the PCU second stringers boosting the lead to 67-47 with less than three minutes remaining.

The Cardinals led by as many as 33 points, 56-23, before the Blazers showed signs of life in the fourth period.

It was a double victory for PCU as the Baby Dolphins drubbed the Light Bombers, 65-55, for a 3-6 record in junior play. Paulo Guidaben topscored with 19 points.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

PCU 67—Espinas 15, Castro 13, Amparado 10, Retaga 10, Belga 8, Sanz 5, Cecilia 5, Salangsang 1, Rivera 0, Solis 0, Acraman 0, Navarro 0, Santos 0.

JRU 51—Mañlago 18, Dedicatoria 9, Tala 7, Magtahao 5, San Luis 4, Fenequito 2, Domancas 2, Nicolas 2, Jorge 2, Japson 0, Natividad 0.

Quarters: 19-9, 34-23, 49-37, 67-51

Second Game (Srs)

MAPUA 75—Gonzales 21, Pascual 12, Dela Peña 10, Del Rosario 10, Sumalinog 7, Co 3, Tiongo 3, Mazo 3, Migraso 3, Gorospe 0, Salud 0, Malgapo 0, Veranga 0.

BENILDE 63—Sagad 18, Orbeta 11, Urra 7, Good 7, Morial 5, Manding 5, Robles 5, Cabatu 4, Aldover 0, Glang 0, Layug 0, Porras 0.

Quarters: 25-10, 45-17, 60-36, 75-63

Air21 commits to Washington

By June Navarro

ENDING the suspense, FedEx will pick Anthony Washington as the No. 1 selection in this year's Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft.

"We will definitely get him (Washington)," said team manager Lito Alvarez, also the president of Air21 Express, by which the FedEx Express will be known in the coming season. "It will be unwise if we don't."

The Express had the 6-foot-6 Washington high on their list as the No. 1 pick, but started to have second thoughts when offers started to come from other teams also interested in the Eckerd College alum.

"The offers to get Washington were surprisingly plenty," said newly appointed head coach coach Dolreich "Bo" Peralol. "There must be something about him that we don't know," he added.

The most interesting offer involved Romel Adducul of Barangay Ginebra. But the Express eventually decided on sticking it out with Washington.

"He (Adducul) could [have given] us the quality big man that we need. He's a genuine threat at both ends of the floor," said Peralol.

Alvarez said the team would exercise its three first-round picks (Nos. 1, 5, 6) in the rookie draft on Sunday at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and snag 6-foot-5 Marlon Legaspi from the dispersal draft on Friday.

"Marlon has the credentials. I saw him play in the amateur ranks and he's quite impressive. All he needs is a break," said Alvarez of Legaspi who will be among the 17 players in the dispersal draft after Shell disbanded two weeks ago.

Legaspi is a fierce inside competitor, who can score even from beyond

the arc.

Aside from Washington, Alvarez mentioned Jon Dan Salvador of Montafia in the Philippine Basketball League, La Salle's Mac Cardona and Nino "KG" Canaleta of University of the East as among the players the Express would pick in the draft.

But with 11 players having live contracts, the Express have to unload some of the regulars to complete a 12-man roster.

Peralol said Washington duplicates the position of Wesley Gonzales, Marc Pingris, Homer Se and even Ranidel de Ocampo, but added it doesn't mean the Express would trim down their forward roster.

"We'll bring them all together first, including the drafted players, before determining the players to be unloaded. It could either be in the backcourt or frontline," said Peralol.

2 lady boxers win in Taiwan

THE PHILIPPINES' Gretchen Abaniel and Mitchell Martinez dumped their respective opponents Tuesday to gain the finals of the 3rd Asian Women Boxing Championships in Taiwan.

Abaniel dominated Japanese Kadokua Chiaki with rapid fire combinations en route to a 19-3 RSC-OS (Referee Stopped Contest-Outscore) victory in the 46 kg division.

Martinez, on the other hand, sent Vietnamese Dinh Thi Phuong Thanh reeling against the ropes with a flurry of punches to win by RSC-H (Referee Stopped Contest-Head-blow), 1 minute and 45 seconds gone in the second round of their 60-kg bout. Martinez, who's slated to meet Indian Pranamika in the finals, was way ahead by then, 12-2.

Light bantam Annaliza Cruz hopes to join her compatriots in the gold medal round when she fights Japanese Yanase Asami in the semifinals on Wednesday.

The Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines headed by Manny Lopez sent a six-woman team to the event. Their trip is backed by the FG Foundation, Ginebra San Miguel, Accel, PSC and Pacific Heights.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ 'Batman' soars, 'Superman' falls

/A20



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Wack Wack bets prevail

WACK Wack trounced Riviera at home, 3-1, to virtually clinch one of the two slots in the Green division while Manila Golf, Orchard and Eastridge scored big wins to boost their respective bids in the 2005 Johnnie Walker Federation Golf League matches over the weekend.

John Gobing and Vince Uy secured the crucial victory for Wack Wack by winning the aggregate match on the last hole after Sammy Sy-Benson Lim (foursomes) and Estong Lim-Mike Ozaeta (aggregate) had delivered two more points to make up for the loss absorbed in scramble by Takanobu Taira-Fernando Jacinto.

Wack Wack took its fifth win in seven outings, moving two points clear of Riviera and three ahead of Manila Golf going into the final day of eliminations this weekend. Manila Golf swept Sta. Elena, 4-0, and needs a win over Wack Wack this weekend to stay in the hunt.

Under steady rain, the teams of Alex Prieto-OV Espiritu, Severo Tuason-Manoling Chan, Giovanni Chuaunsu-Dindo Litonjua and Jojo Guingona-Anthony Te all won their matches to keep Manila Golf's qualifying hopes alive in the league also supported by Pagcor.

As Forest Hills assured itself of a seat in the next stage in the Blue group, Orchard nailed a 3-1 conquest of Canlubang that brings the battle for the second spot to the final day of eliminations. Canlubang needs to beat Forest Hills at home while Eastridge, tied with Canlubang for third at 8 points, hosts Orchard. Eastridge vaulted into contention after a 3.5-5 trampling of Mimosa.

Reduced to a spoiler's role, Sherwood Hills claimed a big victim when it upset Alabang, 3-1, at home. Freddie Mendoza-Paco Gonzalez (foursomes) and Thirly Escano-Shean Bedi (scramble) earned wins while Danny Samaniego-Larry Tojino (high-low) and Raymond Bunquin-Pong Manuel (aggregate) salvaged draws.

Senior golf resumes

ACTION in the Federation of Philippine Amateur Senior Golfers Inc.'s 2005 San Miguel Super Dry Beer series resumes tomorrow at the Riviera Golf and Country's Club's Couples course.

The country's leading golfing elders, led by those who played in the Asean championship in Malaysia, are seeking individual and team honors in the 18-hole tournament. Romulo Garcia topped Group D while George Yabes ruled Group B of the Asean Seniors.



SOLO LEADER: Javi Benitez (No. 236) negotiates a curve midway in the final heat to end up runner-up and grab solo leadership in the Cadet 60 Expert class of the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Enchanted Kingdom. The 10-year-old Benitez, backed by Bingo Bonanza Corporation, Henry Sy Jr. of SM companies and Willy Ocier of Pacific Online Systems Corp. and Belle Corp., finished the 20-lap race in 1:34.921, good for third place and overall leadership with 222 points.

Coaches now in US minus softball bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Little League softball team couldn't leave for lack of funds, turning its coaches, who left earlier, as tourists in the United States.

Pitcher Aiza Dela Torre said the team has returned to Bacolod after a futile effort to have the Negrenses join the coaching staff headed by Francis Fuentes, who left last Thursday for the World Softball Series of the seniors division (14-16 years) in Lower Sussex, Delaware.

"It's sad, frustrating and painful for us," said Dela Torre, who was part of the World Series champion team two years ago (13-14). "All our sacrifices training and skipping classes have gone down the drain."

Aiza stayed behind as she is enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas where she is a Communication Arts freshman.

Dela Torre, who celebrated her 17th birthday yesterday, told the INQUIRER that she even accom-

panied Fuentes to the airport last Thursday. Fuentes, she said, had promised that the team would leave last Sunday for the Aug. 7-13 event.

The RP team has been touted as a championship contender considering that its core came from the former titlists.

She could have made the team for the seniors division because the birthday cutoff was Aug. 1.

"But I think God has a purpose for this to happen," she added. "I trust God to take judgment on whoever is responsible for this injustice. We can't do anything anymore."

Sources said Fuentes failed to get support from the American Negros Association which has been supporting Bacolod-based Little League teams to the tune of P1 million per team.

Fuentes is also involved in the controversy surrounding the P1 million incentive given by President Macapagal-Arroyo when the team won the 2003 World Series. The coaching staff, team officials and players' parents reportedly fought over GMA's bonus which turned off other benefactors.

Spring-Laguna wins

ILIGAN CITY—Fresh from his stint in the PBA Rookie Camp, playmaker Marlon Kalaw played aggressively throughout to power Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna past Iligan, 71-64, Tuesday night in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the MSU-IIT gym here.

Kalaw, who missed two games which the Cooking Oil Masters both lost, and Mike Nuqui scored 17 points each as the team of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro scored their sixth win in

11 games.

From a slim 37-36 at the turn, Nuqui fired two of his three triples in the third quarter to pace Laguna's breakaway. Then Nuqui and Kalaw steadied in the payoff period to help Laguna Spring bounce back from its heartbreaking defeats to Cagayan de Oro and Valencia.

In the other game, Bacchus/Harbour Centre ended its four-game slump by routing the Baguio Lions, 92-56, at the San Juan gym. Nani Epondulan scored 18 for Bacchus.

Maningding kids shine

YOUTHFUL slalom racer Ulysses "Uly" Maningding lorded it over in the 2005 PLDT myDSL-ARCP Car Club Invitational Autocross Challenge first leg at the Macapagal Highway, Pasay City.

A sophomore export management student of College of St. Benilde, Maningding of Explorer Motorworks emerged Overall Autocross King aside from chalking up three other top finishes in different categories



MANINGDING

and a runner-up finish behind Peewee Mendiola in Open C racing. Maningding clocked 59.0 seconds in his Honda S1R to rule the rear-wheel drive as well as the experienced modified B and C

classes. Elder sister Kathy settled for third in the ladies Open B Class. Douglas Maningding, the youngest driver at 10, made waves in his Toyota Starlet in the Novice Modified B Class.

SPORTSWATCH

Parañaque whips MLQU in debut

BOY Bawag-backed Parañaque opened its campaign in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup with a big bang Tuesday by whipping the MLQU Stallions, 92-81, at the Washington gym in Makati City. Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana's Jets relied on a balanced offensive to deal the Stallions their third straight loss in the tourney supported by San Miguel, Air21, Baker's Fair, Funtastic KTV, Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel. Far Eastern Insurance-Cavite crushed Pio-Makati, 92-73, in the other game. It was the second victory in three games for the Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and strong supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi. The Stars suffered their second loss in four games.

Bantay Bata pits UAAP against NCAA

THE BEST of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines and National Collegiate Athletic Association clash on Saturday in the 2005 Bantay Bata 163 All-Star Games at the Araneta Coliseum. The event, proceeds of which go to kids of Bantay Bata 163, pits two teams from the UAAP against two from its NCAA counterparts that will be spiced up by side events starting at 1 p.m. UAAP 1, being coached by FEU's Robert Flores, battles NCAA 1 of PCU coach Junel Baculi at 3 p.m. The Franz Pumaren-mentored UAAP 2 tangles with NCAA 2 of Letran coach Louie Alas at 5 p.m.

BRC sets 2nd Drag Racing Festival

THE BATANGAS Racing Circuit will stage the second Drag Racing Festival on Aug. 20 at the newly inaugurated BRC Drag Strip in Rosario, Batangas. The success of the first drag race on July 22 drew clamor for a sequel as the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines gave its nod to give other drag racing enthusiasts the chance to experience racing on the country's first permanent drag strip. "This will be the chance for other drag racing groups to try daylight competition and experience the same excitement and convenience of racing on a safe permanent track," said BRC manager Sherwin Mojica. Interested participants may contact the Batangas Racing Circuit at (632) 817-2241 or fax 815-1241 or BRC officials Rodini Rivera (0927-3219363 or rivera_rodini@yahoo.com), Sherwin Mojica (0915-4606653 or sherwinmojica@yahoo.com) or Nelson Gayola (0917-6920767 or nelson_gayola@kiltonmotor.com). Walter Pazon of Blanche Racing emerged as the first BRC Drag Racing Festival champion.

Showdown 7-Stag derby lures 100 entries

MORE than 100 entries are expected in Roligon Mega Cockpit's "National Showdown 7-Stag Derby" scheduled on Sept. 3, 5 and 7, with Lakpue Dug Inc. and Thunderbird Power Feeds as sponsors. At least P1 million in guaranteed prize is at stake in this event, said hosts Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu who will be assisted by popular llamadores Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. As of yesterday, Roligon's stag screening committee had covered 50 gamefarms in Batangas, Laguna, Quezon Province, Pangasinan, Tarlac and Pampanga. Other breeders who prefer farm-to-farm screening may contact Roligon at 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812 or 0917-8277484. Screening will also be held at Roligon on Aug. 21, 28 and Sept. 3 and 4.



PETRON Blaze Scooter Track Day winners in Class B Automatic Rico Severino, Gilbert Uy and Ado Alegado with JP Shangio (extreme left) and Flex Cabasa, Scoot66 president.

Woods watching resumes

FIRST, second, first.

That was how Tiger Woods finished in the year's first three majors of golf.

First in the Masters. Second in the US Open. First in the British Open.

It can't get any better than that.

Oh, wait a minute.

In 2000, Tiger Woods won the US Open by 15 shots, the British Open by 8 shots, the PGA via a playoff.

In 2005, Tiger Woods won the Masters in a playoff and the British Open by 3 shots. He was 2 shots behind winner Michael Campbell in the US Open.

Still, I say yes it can't get any better than that. Especially for one whose swing had become—to many doubters—suspect the last two, three, years because it had been retooled a second time since Tiger Woods turned pro in 1996.

Before the second swing change was made, Tiger Woods won 8 majors from 1997 to 2002.

What's in store for Tiger Woods in the PGA Championship, the last of the four majors?

Again, he'll be the prohibitive favorite.

He's definitely on a roll.

In his last outing, Tiger Woods finished tied for second in the Buick Open behind Vijay Singh. Had he not been pulled down by one bad round that put him 8 shots behind Singh going to the last round, Tiger Woods might have overtaken the Fijian.

Still, slashing 4 of Singh's lead of 8 shots going into the last round was another screaming proof of Tiger Woods' return to form.

Play in the PGA begins tomorrow (Friday in Manila but Thursday in America) at the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, New Jer-

SPECTATOR

AL S.
Mendoza



sey, with Tiger Woods gunning for major No. 11 nine years to the day he turned pro.

In the locker room at Baltusrol are two pictures hanging in the wall, showing Jack Nicklaus winning the US Opens there in 1967 (over Arnold Palmer) and 1980 (over Isao Aoki).

Baltusrol is rich in history.

Palmer and fellow golfing giants Ben Hogan and Sam Snead never won there. Nor did the legendary Bobby Jones, Tom Watson, Gary Player, Byron Nelson, Walter Hagen or Gene Sarazen.

Nicklaus won two of his record-sharing four US Open titles (Willie Anderson was the other four-time US Open winner) at Baltusrol, which was founded in 1895 and named for Baltus Roll. Baltus Roll was murdered by robbers outside his farmhouse on nearby Watchung Mountain in 1831. Baltusrol has been the site of 15 USGA tournaments—a record 7 US Opens, two Women's Opens (won by Mickey Wright in 1961 and Kathy Baker in 1985), four National Amateurs and two National Women's Amateurs.

OK, one more bit of golf history.

Bobby Jones, the greatest golfer who never turned pro and who built and founded Augusta National (the permanent home of the Masters), lost the 1926 National Amateur final to George Von Elm at Baltusrol.

Jones, a learned man with degrees in law, architecture and literature and himself a noted golf architect, had etched his legend on one hole at Baltusrol. According to Dave Anderson of the New York Times:

"Golf architect Robert Trent Jones redid some holes before the 1954 Open, notably the fourth, a signature par 3 with a pond guarding the back-to-front sloping green that can be seen from the clubhouse."

"When members began playing the redesigned fourth hole, some complained that it was no longer fair. Bobby Jones was summoned to inspect it. Teeing up a ball, Jones lofted an iron shot over the pond and into the cup for a hole in one. Turning to the complaining members who had assembled, Jones said, 'Gentlemen, the hole is eminently fair.'"

Would it be fair, too, should Tiger Woods win the PGA?

Definitely, yes to his fans but maybe not to Jack Nicklaus?

For that would put Tiger Woods 7 majors shy of Nicklaus' record 18 majors.

Only 29 years old, Tiger Woods, should he proceed to win a third PGA title, would most probably treat the chase of the remaining 7 majors a mere walk in the park.

FASTBREAK. I keep saying here, late is never late. My condolence goes to former PBA Commissioner Jun "Ibok" Bernardino for the passing of his brother, Manny. Manny was 69 when he succumbed to cancer. The family prays for the eternal repose of Manny's soul. The same goes to Dagupan City's Eddie Crisologo, the recently departed best friend of boxing man Hermie Rivera.

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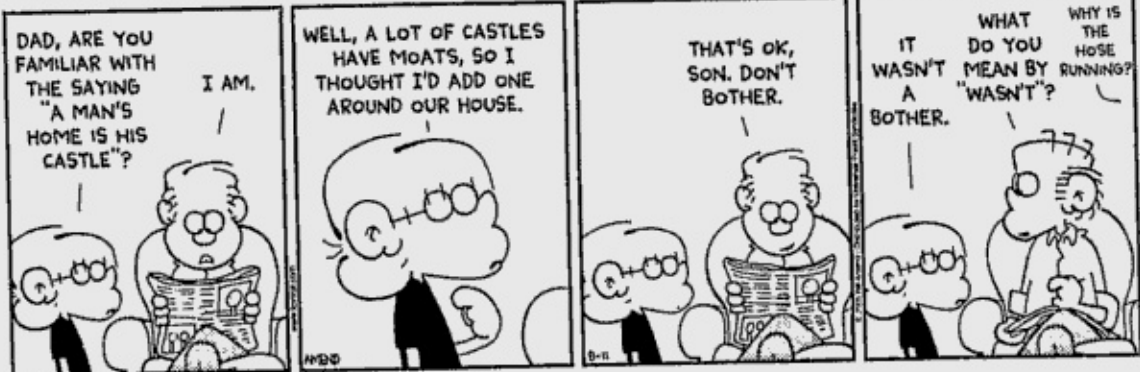
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BY RICKY BARBOZA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You like to study human behavior. You're fascinated by the dynamic of all kinds of relationships. You will research things deeply in your drive to arrive at the truth; in part, this is because your intelligence lets you see connections that others miss. Make use of the year ahead! It's one of the best years of your life!
Birthdate of: Hulk Hogan, wrestler/actor; Alex Haley, writer; Steve Wozniak, computer designer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Romance, love affairs, vacations, activities with children, and your input into the arts interest you now. Actually, you feel like a playful child this month.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a busy time for you. Delays in transportation, travel and all communications are likely. That's because your ruler, Mercury, is retrograde. Allow extra time for all activities.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your involvement with ex-partners is almost inevitable right now. (People are popping up out of the woodwork!) Look your best at all times. (Living well is the best revenge.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Home, family and real estate matters are your primary focus at this time. Work hard to create a home that you want for yourself. You like a secure refuge in this world.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's important to know what really matters to you right now. Old job offers and co-workers you once worked with will make you have second thoughts about something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's important to get rest, relaxation and solitude in order to pull your act together. You need to sort things out for yourself so that you have a warm feeling in your tummy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Friendship is very important right now. Your involvement in a particular group really matters. Don't be afraid to stand up and be counted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't be shy about being singled out for special recognition or for a special job right now. It's in the cards. Just step up to the plate and pick up your bat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You are the traveler in the zodiac. Now more than ever, you're involved with foreign countries, travel opportunities, publishing and a chance for extended education.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is the time to settle insurance matters, debt, taxes, shared property and anything you hold jointly with someone else. Get down to nitty-gritty details.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): With three planets opposite your sign now, you can't help but focus on partnerships, both current and previous. Old flames are definitely in the picture!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be patient with delays at work. Mercury in retrograde creates confused communication and equipment breakdowns. Just do the best you can, because you have no other choice. (Ain't it the truth?)

MIKROKOSMOS



BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN



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KIKO MACHINE



BY MANIX ABRERA

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BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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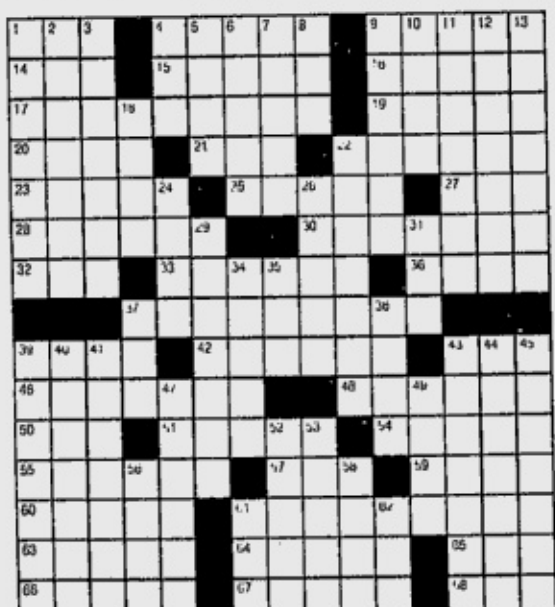


BY PAPU AND TATSUMI MILAMBILING

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- IBM units
- Nimbi
- Twin of Romulus
- Mine find
- Sacred song
- Actress Verdugo
- Start of George Patton quote
- Protected from the sun
- Roof piece
- Gray soldier, briefly
- Glistens
- Overthrow
- '70s hot spot
- Credit-tracking corp.
- Discount label
- Part 2 of quote
- Linguistic suffix
- Hubbub
- Hughes "Sing America"
- Part 3 of quote
- Pinnacle
- Whirlybird
- Former California fort
- Part 4 of quote
- Neat and elegant
- Ate starter?
- On the move
- Capital of Idaho
- Japanese self-defense
- Stoolie
- Pro (in proportion)
- Sweeping sagas
- End of quote
- Fireworks
- Man from Japan
- Before, before
- Hall
- University
- Seacoast
- Sun, hornily



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/11/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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- Simian
- Cold War initials
- Torn down in London
- Legal defense
- Printer's measures
- Display anew
- Covering grades K-12
- Wasn't kidding
- Experience
- On what authority?
- Breath mint
- Expressed contempt for
- Designer Rabanne
- Cry to be heard
- Blood sugar
- Make haste
- Concerning
- Unruly head of hair
- Craving
- Common crustacean
- Stops sleeping
- Low-price version
- James ___ lves
- Narcotics
- Make like new again
- Impractical visionary
- China's Sun ___
- Computer connection
- Cork populace
- This compared to that
- Height: pref.
- Ski lift
- Possesses
- Five before six

Battle of the Courts explodes at West Drive this weekend

ABOUT 50 INQUIRER Badminton partner courts in Metro Manila and all over the country are set to compete in the much-awaited Battle of the Courts National Inter-club Cup Year 2.

A series of area eliminations starting with the East sector scheduled this weekend at the West Drive Badminton will determine the field for the culminating grand finals at the Market! Market! Activ-

ity Center on Oct. 1 and 2.

This year's Battle of the Courts National Inter-Club Cup is co-presented by Smart: Simply Amazing, Mizuno and Inquirer with Citibank and Unilever as minor sponsors.

The Zone, the defending champion, faces a tougher challenge against revitalized squads all eyeing the national team championship.

Members of The Zone team won a Bangkok holiday for its feat last year. A vacation abroad is also at stake as one of the major prizes this year that also includes badminton apparel and equipment, gift certificates, among others.

Defending leg champion Valle Verde heads the cast for the east leg, fielding a revamped squad that is tipped to better the team's semifinal showing in last year's

tourney.

For inquiries, email Ching dela Cruz at cmdelacruz@inquirer.com.ph.

The tournament schedule:

East for courts in Taguig, Pasig, Marikina and Rizal on Aug. 13-14 at the West Drive Badminton Club, Central for courts Makati, Mandaluyong and San Juan on Aug. 20-21 at The Zone Badminton, South for courts in Parañaque, Las Piñas

and Muntinlupa at the Alabang Racquet Club on Sept. 10-11, West for courts in Pasay, Manila, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon and Navotas at Feathers N Strings on Sept. 17-18, North for courts in Quezon City at the Club 650 on Sept. 24-25.

Separate eliminations will be held for Bacolod, Cebu and Iloilo at the Metro Sports Badminton Club and Mindanao for Cagayan de Oro and Davao on Sept. 3-4.

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING

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1 (DOLBY) CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP	1 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHERS	1 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
2 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED GP	2 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED	2 (DOLBY) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHER PG13	3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR	3 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED
4 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID PG13	4 (DOLBY) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	4 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHER
PREMIERE	5 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED	
(DOLBY) BEWITCHED GP	6 (DOLBY) STEALTH	
	7 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID	
	8 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS	
	9 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHERS	
	10 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND	
		CINEMA 2000
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1 BEWITCHED	1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	1 D' ANOTHERS
2 THE GREAT RAID	2 THE GREAT RAID	2 YEAR OF THE YAO
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	3 THE EYE	3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS	4 BEWITCHED	4 IF ONLY
	SUPER CINERAMA	Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
	Isetann Cinemas Complex Recto tel 733.4238	(Biran) tel (049) 411.1146
	1 SOON TO OPEN	1 D' ANOTHERS
	2 SOON TO OPEN	2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
	3 SOON TO OPEN	3 YEAR OF THE YAO
	4 SOON TO OPEN	4 IF ONLY
		Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
		(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
		1 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
		2 D' ANOTHERS
		3 MONSTER IN LAW
Universal	Mandulayong	
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470	MARINELLA tel 533.3851 / 533.3856	
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	2 NEW POLICE STORY	(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
	3 STRAIGHT SHOT	1 D' ANOTHERS
	4 STEALTH	2 SIX
		3 YEAR OF THE YAO
		4 THE ISLAND
starmall	Masagana	Cinema 2000 Waltermart
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150	CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274	(Pinarol) tel (044) 795.3320
1 RESERVED	1 D' ANOTHERS	1 MONSTER IN LAW
2 RESERVED	2 STEALTH	2 D' ANOTHERS
3 LAMAT	3 LAMAT	3 CREEP
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BEWITCHED		
5 THE GREAT RAID	Center Mall Cinema	Lianas Cinema
	Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074) (4449346)	(Alabang) tel 850.1276
METROPOLIS		1 THE GHOST
www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994		2 XEREX
1 RESERVED	Jade Cinema	3 EVA LASON SI ADAN
2 RESERVED	(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03	4 EVIL DEAD
3 RESERVED	1 (DOLBY EX) WEDDING CRASHER	Lianas MovieCity
4 RESERVED	2 CREEP	(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
5 RESERVED	3 D' ANOTHERS	1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 RESERVED	4 YEAR OF THE YAO	2 CREEP
	Cine Nepo	3 YEAR OF THE YAO
	(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121	4 LAMAT
	1 D' ANOTHERS	5 D' ANOTHERS
	2 WEDDING CRASHER	
	3 YEAR OF THE YAO	Fiesta World Mall
	4 CREEP	(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
starmall	Cine Nepo	1 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
www.clickthecity.com.ph (LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004	(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489	2 STEALTH
1 (DOLBY) STEALTH	1 D' ANOTHERS	3 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
2	2 FANTASTIC FOUR	4 D' ANOTHERS
	3 JACKET	
	4 THE ISLAND	Berma Cinema
	Centre Plaza Cinema	(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
	(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007	1 LAMAT
	1 THE ISLAND	2 CREEP
	2 D' ANOTHERS	

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BERSHAWN Jackson uses the US flag like a cape after topping the 400-m hurdles. REUTERS

'Batman' soars, 'Superman' falls

HELSINKI, Finland—"Batman" didn't let a little rain slow him down.

Bershawn Jackson, who earned his nickname as a kid because he had ears like a bat and was so fast he seemed to fly, splashed to victory in the 400-meter hurdles Tuesday, leading a 1-2 US finish at the world athletics championships.

The race came after a severe thunderstorm swept in from the Baltic Sea, bringing torrential rains that suspended competition for nearly two hours.

When the competition resumed, the 22-year-old Jackson ran a personal-best 47.31 seconds despite a steady rain. It was the second-fastest time in the world this year. Teammate James Carter, fourth in the last two Olympics, was second in 47.43, also a personal best.

"I was so focused, I let nothing, neither rain nor the lightning stop me," Jackson said.

Americans nearly had a sweep, but Dai Tamesue of Japan edged 19-year-old Kerron Clement for third. Clement, who has the world's fastest time at 47.24, ran poorly in lane 1, had his usual

problem with a stutter-step over the final hurdle, and finished in 48.18, eight-hundredths of a second behind Tamesue.

"I'm young," Clement said, "and I'll be back." Felix "Superman" Sanchez, the two-time defending champion and Olympic gold medalist, pulled up with a right hamstring injury after the first hurdle. Sanchez, who sports a large Superman tattoo on his left shoulder, was born and raised in the United States but runs for the Dominican Republic, where his parents were born.

"Last year I had a lot of technical problems and I missed the Olympic team," he said. "This year I just wanted to show the world my talent. I'm very mature as far as running the hurdles, and I just want to be like Edwin Moses one day."

Then Jackson turned around, and there was Moses, the two-time Olympic gold medalist who won 122 consecutive races from 1977 to 1987.

The two, who had never met, posed for pictures, Moses towering over the 1.73-meter Jackson, who is unusually small for a 400-meter hurdler.

Normally, Jackson would have the name of his late uncle Richard Jackson on his trademark headband, but international federation rules wouldn't allow it, but his family was on his mind. AP

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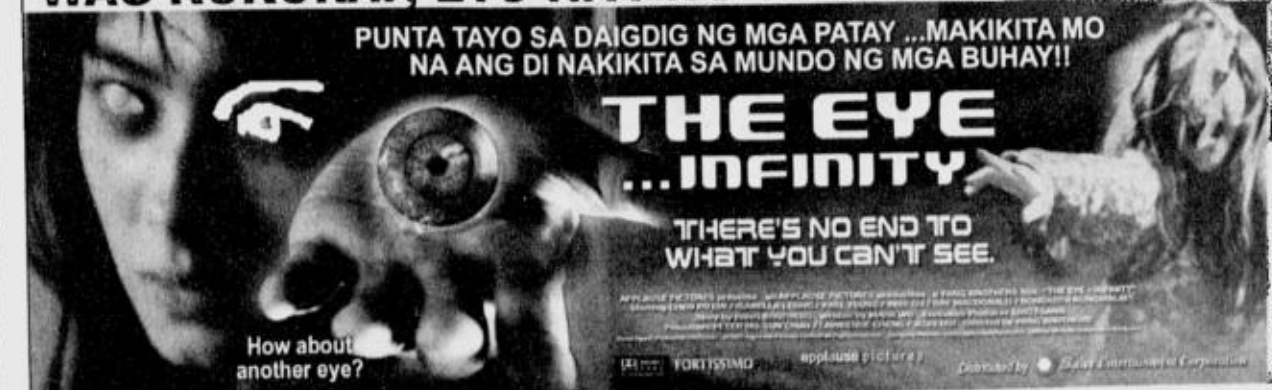
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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 BEWITCHED • THX | 6 CRASH |
| 2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY | 7 ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON |
| 3 STEALTH | 8 D' ANOTHERS |
| 4 WEDDING CRASHERS | 9 THE ISLAND |
| 5 THE GREAT RAID | 10 BEWITCHED |

ERMITA

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- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 THE GREAT RAID | 5 BEWITCHED |
| 2 STEALTH | 6 D' ANOTHERS |
| 3 THE ISLAND / YEAR OF THE YAO | 7 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY |
| 4 WEDDING CRASHERS | 8 D' ANOTHERS |

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 STEALTH | 5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY |
| 2 THE ISLAND | 6 IF ONLY |
| 3 WEDDING CRASHERS | 7 BEWITCHED |
| 4 THE GREAT RAID | 8 D' ANOTHERS |

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- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 THE GREAT RAID | 1 BEWITCHED |
| 2 D' ANOTHERS | 2 THE GREAT RAID |
| 3 NEW POLICE STORY | 3 STEALTH |
| 4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY | 4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY |



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| 3 SIN ONLY | 3 D' ANOTHERS |
| 4 YEAR OF THE YAO | 4 THE ISLAND |

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| 2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY | 2 D' ANOTHERS |
| 3 THE EYE INFINITY | 3 CREEP |
| 4 D' ANOTHERS | 4 SHANGHAI LILY |

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| 2 D' ANOTHERS | 2 THE ISLAND |
| 3 ARAHAN | 3 THE EYE INFINITY |
| 4 BEWITCHED | 4 ARAHAN |
| | 5 YEAR OF THE YAO |
| | 6 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY |

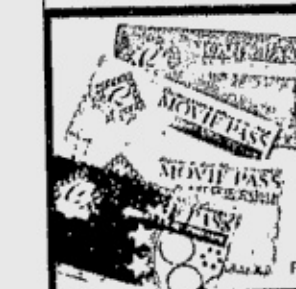
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| 3 MONSTER-IN-LAW | 3 D' ANOTHERS |
| 4 EVIL DEAD | 4 WEDDING CRASHERS |
| 5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED | 5 YEAR OF THE AYO |
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G1	G4	GB1	GB3	ATC	ACC
1 BEWITCHED 2 THE GREAT RAID 3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 4 D' ANOTHERS	1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 2 WEDDING CRASHERS 3 THE GREAT RAID 4 ONE LAST DANCE 5 STEALTH 6 BEWITCHED 7 CRASH	1 BEWITCHED 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05 2 THE GREAT RAID 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	1 BEWITCHED 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20 2 THE GREAT RAID 12:45, 3:25, 6:05, 8:45, 11:25 3 CRASH 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 4 WEDDING CRASHERS 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30 5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	1 THE GREAT RAID 2 BEWITCHED 3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 4 STEALTH 5 WEDDING CRASHERS	1 THE GREAT RAID 2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 3 THE EYE... INFINITY 4 THE MACHINIST

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'Total Performer' workshop starts Aug. 20

LAST year, we taught a performance workshop for children for Bibsy Carballo's SNACK group. Right after that successful workshop, which ended in a performance showcase that delighted the kids' parents, we were urged to hold a similar performance workshop for teens and adults.

But we held off, because the new group we talked to wanted a quickie course, and we knew that, to be effective, such a workshop would have to be both intensive and comprehensive. So, we scouted around for a more informed and enlightened group.

On Saturday, Aug. 20, we're finally holding that performance workshop for teens and adults, for Ryan Cayabyab's music studio at the Sunvar Plaza in Makati.

Perfect teammates

Ryan and Emmy Cayabyab are the perfect people to work with in mounting this workshop, because they share our great interest in mentoring new talents to come into their own as creative and dynamic performers who can have long and fulfilling careers in musical theater and in show business.

They agree with us that, to really make a difference and come up with outstanding performers, the workshop should be detailed, practical and comprehensive. Thus, the workshop titled "The Total Performer," will be held for four months—every Saturday from Aug. 20 to Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our workshop is open to both new and experienced talents, 14 years of age and older. It will introduce students to the dynamic principles involved in musical performance, then put those principles into practice by having workshopers rehearse and perform solo and group exercises in acting, singing and movement, as well as a combination of all three skills.

The four-month workshop will have guest mentors, including the great Mr. Cayabyab himself. The guest lecturers are specialists in enunciation, music, singing, movement, imaging and career development.

Not so young?

The workshop sessions will be capped by a recital performance on Dec. 17, to which theater, TV, film and recording producers will be invited. The recital showcase will also be the students' bright musical Christmas gift to their parents, teachers, relatives and friends, in gratitude for their strong support for the development of their musical talent. Call 843-2874, 844-3330 or mobile 0917-9096484.

Not so young?
We've been asked by some prospective talents who say they are "not young" if they can also join the workshop. By all means!

The way we see it, talent is talent, and more mature performing artists can finally give vent to their desire to develop their talents—provided they're serious about it, are ready to work hard, and don't regard the workshop simply as a pastime.

The local musical performance scene needs well-trained new talents of all ages, especially if they have the right, "giving" attitude and focused work ethic. We trust that our workshopers will help energize musical theater and show biz productions here in the months and years to come.

On Star World

EVERY Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and Thursday at 9 a.m., "Rock Star: INXS" chronicles rock history in the making. The talent search is looking for the new lead singer for the hit band, with finalists from all over the world (including Fil-Aussie Mig Ayesa) competing.

Created by Mark Burnett ("Survivor"), the show is viewed by millions the world over. The winner will go on to record INXS' next album, and embark on a 60-city world tour with the band in 2006.

Also a should-see on Star World is the medical sitcom, "Scrubs," which debuts at 8 p.m. on Aug. 11, and will be telecast every Thursday henceforth. The new show is already a hit in the States, and could click with viewers here, as well.

In the new series, medical intern J.D. Dorain and his two cohorts embark on a healing career in a surreal hospital crammed full of unpredictable staffers and patients.

Keeping a watchful eye over the hospital are the caustic chief of medicine, Dr. Bob Kelso, the abrasive but caring Dr. Perry Cox, and the no-nonsense nurse Carla Espinosa. Hilarious and irreverent!

'Extreme Animals'

Every Monday at 8 p.m. on Animal Planet, "Extreme Animals" features animals that push the limits of survival. Voyaging to the most hostile environment on earth, host Steve Leonard braves the elements to uncover the most incredible examples of endurance in the natural world. Each episode highlights a different

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

For talents
of all ages

extreme—cold, heat, aggression, long-distance travel and pressure. On Aug. 15, the focus is on aggression, with features on lions, elephant seals and tiger sharks.

'Building the Airbus A380'

DISCOVERY Channel's new series, "Giant of the Sky: Building the Airbus A380," premieres on Aug. 17 at 10 p.m. The three-part series focuses on the most ambitious project ever in civil aviation—building the world's biggest airliner.

In 2006, the 240-foot triple-decker airbus is due to enter into commercial service, carrying more than 550 passengers over distances of more than 8,000 miles. The series takes viewers on an exclusive tour of the planning, construction and launch of this historic airplane.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY MTRCB: GP 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF	3 WEDDING CRASHERS MTRCB: PG-13 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
2 BEWITCHED MTRCB: GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF	4 THE GREAT RAID MTRCB: PG-13 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE BEWITCHED

MTRCB: GP 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 LMF

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1 THE GREAT RAID PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME GP
3 BEWITCHED PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME PG-13
4 WEDDING CRASHERS PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981-440-41

WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	GREAT RAID PG13 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
BEWITCHED GP 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25	STEALTH PG13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	BEWITCHED GP 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

Gateway Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

BEWITCHED 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA BEWITCHED 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
THE GREAT RAID 1:25 / 4:10 / 6:55 / 9:40	D' ANOTHERS 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25	IF ONLY 1:00 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
CRASH 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	WEDDING CRASHERS 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
STEALTH 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	THE ISLAND 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 D' ANOTHERS 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00	4 EYE INFINITY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
2 THE GREAT RAID 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40	5 STEALTH 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
3 BEWITCHED 12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25	

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

FUNK FESTI PAROKYA NI EDGAR CONCERT August 12, Friday, 7 pm	UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 AWARDS August 25, Thursday 8 pm	CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENTS	Oxygen at the 2nd Floor of Farmers Plaza, Human at the 2nd Floor of Ali Mall, and Van Heusen at the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall.
EXHIBIT	DMC Exhibit ongoing until August 12 at the Level 2 LRT Concourse Area of Gateway Mall.
PERFORMANCES	Cool Live Jazz at the Gateway Courtyard from 9 to 11pm featuring Mishka Adams & The Blue Echoes on August 12 and Brass Monkeys on August 13.

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

SM CINEMA NOW SHOWING

EVENTS SCHEDULES PROMOS

Thursday

Kitohle Nadal SAME GROUND Live in Concert

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August 20, 2005 Saturday 8:00 pm SM North EDSA Cinema 1

3 nights to go!

Thursday Yuppies Day!

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1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:50FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20 08:20LF/09:00LMF/10:55END	STEALTH 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 08:10LF/09:00LMF/10:55END
2 BEWITCHED 11:20FS/11:50MF/02:05/04:20/06:35 08:20LF/09:00LMF/10:45END	3 THE ISLAND 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 08:20LF/09:00LMF/10:55END

SM MEGAMALL

- CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- THE ISLAND
- BEWITCHED
- STEALTH
- WEDDING CRASHERS
- CRASH
- D' ANOTHERS
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- THE GREAT RAID
- THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY STA MESA

- THE GREAT RAID
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- BEWITCHED
- STEALTH
- D' ANOTHERS
- THE EYE INFINITY
- THE ISLAND
- CRASH
- WEDDING CRASHERS
- YEAR OF THE YAO

SM CITY BICUTAN

- THE GREAT RAID
- D' ANOTHERS
- BEWITCHED
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

- ARAHAN
- WAR OF THE WORLDS
- WEDDING CRASHERS
- THE ISLAND
- THE GREAT RAID
- D' ANOTHERS
- STEALTH
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- BEWITCHED
- THE EYE INFINITY
- IF ONLY
- FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY SOUTH MALL

- THE GREAT RAID
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- STEALTH
- BEWITCHED
- FANTASTIC FOUR
- CRASH
- WEDDING CRASHERS
- ARAHAN
- D' ANOTHERS
- THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY MANILA

- BEWITCHED
- THE ISLAND
- ARAHAN
- THE GREAT RAID
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- STEALTH
- YEAR OF THE YAO
- IF ONLY
- D' ANOTHERS
- CRASH
- WEDDING CRASHERS
- THE EYE INFINITY

SM SAN LAZARO

- THE GREAT RAID
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- CRASH
- ARAHAN
- BEWITCHED
- D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

- STEALTH
- ARAHAN
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- THE EYE INFINITY
- YEAR OF THE YAO
- D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BAGUIO

- STEALTH
- D' ANOTHERS
- IF ONLY
- THE MACHINIST

LUZON

SM CITY BACOR

- ARAHAN
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- THE GREAT RAID
- BEWITCHED
- STEALTH
- D' ANOTHERS
- WEDDING CRASHERS
- THE ISLAND

SM CITY MARILAO

- IF ONLY
- D' ANOTHERS
- EVIL DEAD
- ARAHAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

- STEALTH
- THE ISLAND
- THE GREAT RAID
- CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- CRASH
- THE EYE INFINITY
- D' ANOTHERS
- THE MACHINIST

SM CITY ILOILO

- EVIL DEAD
- RESERVED
- IF ONLY
- D' ANOTHERS
- YEAR OF THE YAO
- D' ANOTHERS
- RESERVED
- HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

SM CITY DAVAO

- STEALTH
- CRASH
- D' ANOTHERS
- THE MACHINIST
- WEDDING CRASHERS
- IF ONLY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

- CAMPUS GHOST STORY
- D' ANOTHERS
- STEALTH
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Mike Tan shouldn't forget how he started

I THOUGHT long and hard before writing this piece. I know some people may say it's better for me to leave it to other writers to come to the defense of IC, my gay son. But I feel that I ought to expose how young actor Mike Tan insulted IC, if only to warn others not to be like him, and for gays to steer clear of this "Starstruck" survivor. Over and beyond the mother-son angle, this is about the basic courtesy that all gays like IC deserve just as much as straight people do.

IC had a shooting for the movie "Lovestruck" last Sunday. Even if he just had a few scenes in the film, IC was all agog getting dolled up for the shoot. He was looking forward to meet one of his many crushes, Mark Herras, who topbills the movie. Too bad for him, Mark was not around. Rainier Castillo and Mike Tan were the ones IC would have scenes with.

While IC was dressing up, Mike snapped, "Saan n'yo ba napulot yang bading na 'yan?" Kind-hearted souls like Direk Louie Ignacio and make-up artist Jay Feliciano shot back, "IC has made more movies than you 'cause he was a child star. He even won Best Child Actor. This is just your first movie."

Even if IC knew what Mike had said, he just licked his wounds and went about his job. (He unburdened himself to me when he got home.) As if the arrogant remark was not enough, Mike continued with his IC-bashing. Before a scene at the badminton court was shot, Mike yakked, "Hey IC! Di ka naman babae eh. Ayan o may nakaumbok!" IC was seething at the point, but still he kept quiet. He did not walk out, which would have been the easy thing to do.

During the break, Mike tried to be chummy with IC. They were watching "All Star K," where IC was a guest that night. In a condescending tone Mike again said "O! Ikaw pala yang nasa TV! Parang nakita na nga pala kita noon!" IC just played along so as not to ruin the shoot. Actually, he could no longer stand Mike's braggadocio.

I saw how Mike and the other "Starstruck" contestants slugged it out to make it to the Final 4. Mike has come a long way but he should remember that he still has a lot to learn in the business. I grew up in show biz. I have seen stars come and go. My mom showed me the ropes. Sad to say, there will always be Mike Tans in the biz, stars who believe in their own hype. Stars who look down on other actors. Stars who discriminate against gays. Stars who feel like they're God's gift to women. Stars who suddenly have amnesia and forget their humble beginnings. Stars who drown in their newfound (often short-lived) fame.

Mike Tan should remember the "Starstruck" motto "Dream. Believe. Survive." His dream has come true, but it can turn into a nightmare if he keeps throwing his weight around. Yup, he believes, but it looks like he believes in himself too much. Survival in show biz is not just survival of the fittest. It's survival of the humblest.

Dubbing not needed

I GOT tons of e-mail from Cebu asking why GMA-7's shows are dubbed in Cebuano when they are

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Ann Carvajal

Gays should avoid this guy

aired there. One reader says, "We understand Tagalog—no need for Cebuano dubbing. It makes the actors look silly 'cause we know that they don't speak our dialect. Hope that GMA stops it already." We already have an overkill of Korean telenovelas dubbed in Tagalog. Now it's Tagalog sitcoms dubbed in Cebuano! Shades of what President Macapagal-Arroyo calls Two Philippines, huh? Hopefully even just via TV shows, all Pinoyos will speak the same language

ABS-CBN news

HEARD Erwin Tulfo may soon be back on "Magandang Umaga Pilipinas." Perhaps the morning show needs the punch of Erwin's trademark fiery comments. Another development in ABS-CBN's news department is Julius Babao's new show. His baby with Tin-Tin (Bersola) is truly a lucky charm. More and more good breaks are coming his way ever since he became a proud daddy to Antonia.

(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaith-band.com)

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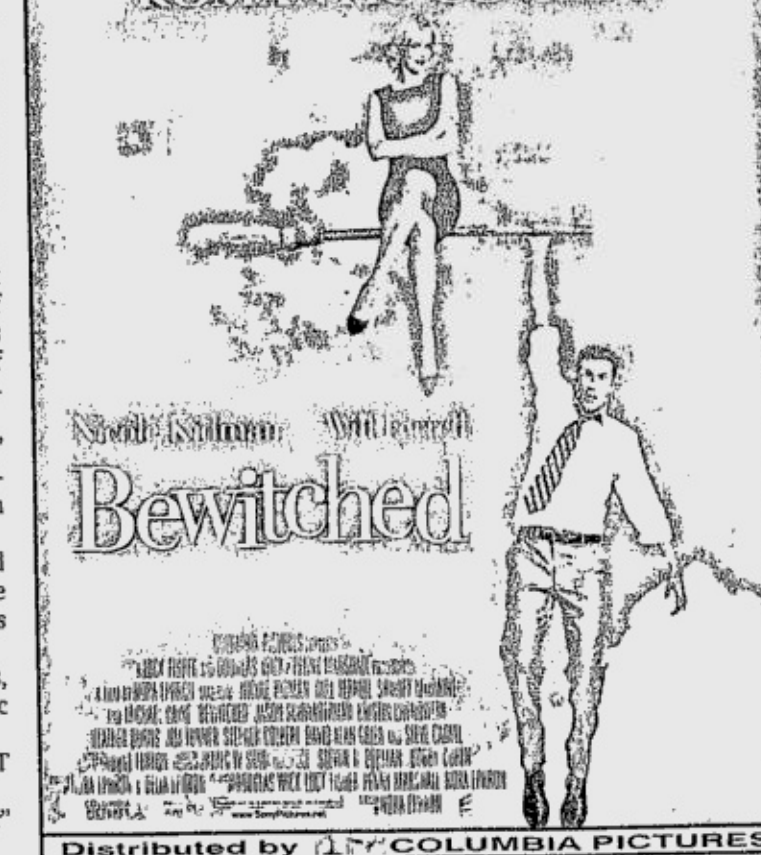
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THE GREAT RAID

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

175,000 people in the downstream" and related industries.

Among NCAP's active members are the SM Cinemas, Robinson's Movie World, the Ayala Cinemas, the Araneta Group, Cinema 2000, and Festival Mall Cinemas.

Camaligan recalled that the NCAP was formed precisely when the country's two major theater groups—the Greater Manila Theater Association (GMTA) and the Metro Manila Theater Association (MMTA)—merged as a result of their VAT woes.

"All the members are in this together," he said. "We agree that something should be done, but passing on the tax to the moviegoers is not it. If we add P10 to the ticket price, most Filipinos would simply stop going to cinemas. A family of five or six would opt to buy a pirated VCD instead."

SM was hoping to "attract more ticket buyers" by building more cinemas, renovating old facilities and investing in digital projectors, Camaligan said.

In the new SM Mall of Asia in the reclaimed area along Roxas Boulevard—set to open by the year's end—the chain is installing the country's first IMAX (maximum image) theater.

"We want to wean people, especially students, away from pirates by offering a total cinematic experience," Camaligan said.

All these efforts would be frustrated by the VAT and E-VAT, he said.

But he added that his group was "very eager" to dialogue with the BIR.

MTRCB G General Audiences ALL AGES ADMITTED



AMBER TAMBLYN IS 'TIBBY'

Smart, sarcastic, rebellious, creative, Tibby marches to her own beat. As the only one of the group who doesn't have travel plans for the summer, she's focusing on other people who, in her estimation, aren't going anywhere with their lives either, and decides to spend the summer working on her video, the "Suckumentary", which is just her interviewing people in town in order to show how pathetic their lives are.

Tibby needs something to shake her out of her entrenched opinions and that will happen in a most unexpected way, through a chance encounter with an extraordinary girl named Bailey who views life in an entirely different way and for very compelling reasons.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

OPENS AUGUST 24

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Hot show

HOTLEGS has set its next performance, "Funk-a-Delic" at the trend-setting, state-of-the-art Club Mwah in Mandaluyong City. To be directed by Floy Quintos, the two-hour show promises to be "hip, edgy, full of energy, and absolutely fun." Choreography by Charles Thompson, Nancy Crowe and Christine Blando; lights by John Batalla. Call 539-7943 or 539-2826.

Elbow Room opens

SHOW biz and sports celebrities—Richard Gomez, Cesar Montano, Joey Marquez, Rico Puno, Richard Merk, Alex Crissano and Mon Tuf—were expected tonight at the grand opening of the new Elbow Room at Metrowalk Plaza in Pasig City. Elbow Room has been a celebrity hangout since it was originally opened at the Podium Mall in Ortigas Center.

SHOW TIME



Theater owners united vs VAT

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE NATIONAL Cinema Association of the Philippines (NCAP) formally expressed its objections to the VAT (value added tax) in a letter recently sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ric Camaligan, president of NCAP told Inquirer Entertainment that his group was waiting for Malacañang's response. The letter was dated July 1 and received by the Palace on July 11.

Camaligan, who is also first vice president of SM Leisure Inc.—which operates SM Cinemas—described the situation in the "moribund" industry as "confusing."

He minced no words: "Even without the VAT, more than 200 cinemas have folded up since 2001. This figure includes not just free-standing movie houses but also cineplexes in malls like Ever and Uniwide. In fact, Robinsons closed 23 cinemas last month."

Last year, theater owners received a letter from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) announcing they needed to pay an additional 10 percent VAT to the national government on top of the 30 percent amusement tax they were already paying

to local government units.

"We were even told to pay retroactive since 1996," Camaligan said. "That's a total in the ballpark of P1 billion."

He said most of NCAP members could not afford this. "The 30 percent amusement tax is already burdensome to begin with," he explained. "For every P100 we earn, we surrender P30 to the local government. The VAT would leave only P60 for the producer and the theater owner to share. The usual arrangement is 60-40. After the VAT, this would add up to P36 for the producer, P24 for theater owners."

The NCAP sees the VAT as "regressive."

"It's double taxation," Camaligan stressed. "The expanded (E-VAT) regulations have lumped us with hotels and inns."

SM was more than willing to pay all the taxes due, he added, but most of the other NCAP members might have no choice but to close shop ... or rent out their theaters.

In the letter to Ms Arroyo, NCAP noted that the industry directly benefited "about 90,000" employees and "provided employment for "over

ROUNDUP

Keep Philip here

BUSINESSWOMAN Cristina Castillo-Decena has filed an application for a hold-departure order before the Las Piñas Regional Trial Court against her former live-in partner, actor Phillip Salvador. Decena, who filed several estafa cases against the actor and his brother Ramon last year, also submitted an application for preliminary attachment on the Salvadors' cash and other assets in the Philippines.

A preliminary attachment could force an accused to comply with a court decision on a pending case. Inquirer Entertainment obtained a copy of the applications, as well as copies of titles of the Salvadors' properties in Marikina, Baguio and Parañaque City. "Filing these requests is my right as a complainant," Decena told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview on Tuesday.

She added: "Phillip and Ramon once flew to the United States to escape their financial responsibilities to me. They could do it again, especially now that they know I have a strong case against them."

Marinel R. Cruz

Nora's hearing moved

LOS ANGELES—The preliminary hearing of the drugs possession case against Nora Aunor has been moved from Aug. 8 to Aug. 23. Aunor's appearance is definitely required on August 23 at the Department A of the Los Angeles Airport Courthouse, defense lawyer Claire Espina told Inquirer Entertainment.

Transcript of the earlier proceedings last July 25 before Superior Court Judge Shino Biderman was not available at press time. *Janet Susan R. Nepales*

DID YOU KNOW...

Low-profile star couple

SHOW biz couple Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong watched "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" with their three younger kids Saturday night at Alabang Town Center. They all patiently queued outside the theater. Boyet next lined up at the snacks counter to get

sandwiches and drinks.

Joey and Jean?

SIGHTED together in the all-couch room of the Embassy at The Fort in Makati were Jean Garcia and Joey Marquez. Completing the foursome were Jomari Yllana and a non-show biz date.

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4 THE GREAT RAID PG13
11:50, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50

5 BEWITCHED GP
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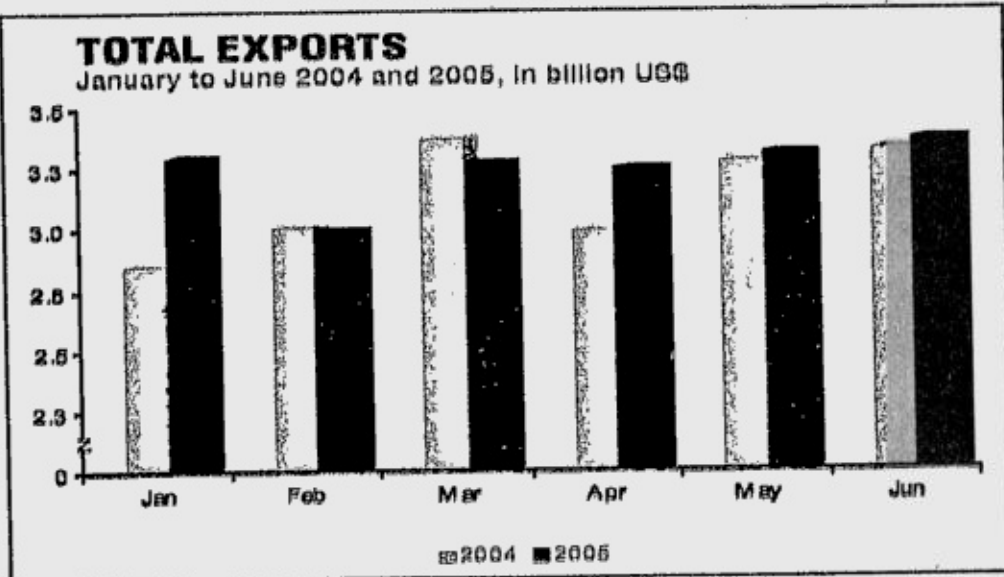
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Energy-conservation measures pushed



By Abigail L. Ho

RECORD-HIGH world oil prices have prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to direct government agencies to enforce drastic energy conservation measures, including the possible imposition of higher tariffs on gas guzzlers and the strict implementation of a speed limit on expressways and national highways.

Surging crude prices bloat imports by 27%

Based on the measures submitted during the National Economic and Development Authority Board meeting last Tuesday, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the government was looking at increasing the tariff slapped on the importation of vehicles with high engine displacements.

He said the Neda and the Department of Finance should consider such measure as this could discour-

age the use of gas-guzzling vehicles and lead to lower oil consumption.

Also, Philippine National Construction Corp. and the Traffic Management Group had been asked to consider imposing a speed limit of 80 kilometers per hour (kph) on expressways and national highways as this was the most fuel-efficient speed, he said.

Right now, an 80-kph speed limit is already implemented on expressways. However, many vehicles, particularly on relatively low traffic parts of the highways, go way beyond that limit.

Lotilla said Ms Arroyo had also ordered the Department of Energy to work with oil firms on the possi-

ENERGY/B2

Electronics exports continue downtrend

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY should reorient its export mix away from its "alarming" overdependence on the sale of electronics components abroad, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Neda's pronouncement came as the government disclosed a 4.7-percent annual decline in the value of electronics exports in June to \$2.17 billion from \$2.27 billion in the same period last year.

"I think we are too reliant on the electronics sector," Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said in an interview yesterday. "We have to diversify our exports away from electronics."

According to documents from the National Statistics Office (NSO), the June figure marked the second successive month of decline for the electronics sector, which also saw foreign sales decline by an annual 4.1 percent in May.

Electronics components account for 65 percent of the country's total exports and are a critical source of hard currency for the local economy.

"For me, this is alarming," Santos said. More importantly, the Neda chief said that both exports and imports figures have been on a downtrend since January of this year—a worrisome phenomenon he said he has never

encountered in the last five to 10 years.

He said the decline in foreign trade activity was a clear indication of slower economic activity in the country, aggravated by a weakening global economy.

"We don't know how long this will last," he said, adding that the country's local economic output—or the gross domestic product—could grow by 5.1 percent this year if the situation is aggravated by a \$70-a-barrel crude oil price. The government's official downgraded forecast stands at 5.3 percent.

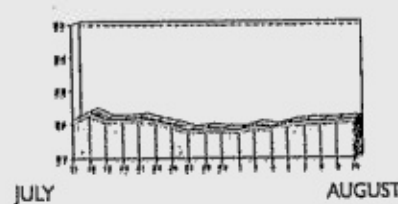
Despite this, total merchandise exports managed to eke out a one-percent annual growth. According to the NSO, total exports reached \$3.35 billion at the end of the first semester, compared to the \$3.17 billion reported in the same period last year.

The latest export growth rate was significantly slower than the government's 8-percent prediction, although the third quarter of the year has traditionally offset weaknesses in earlier periods. For his part, Export Development Council chief Sergio Ortiz-Luiz downplayed the June export numbers, saying the electronics sector expected a sharp uptick in sales in the second semester.

"In fact, SEIPI (the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries of the Philippines, Inc.)

ELECTRONICS/B2

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



As of 5 p.m., Aug. 10, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares up 1.03%; PLDT at all-time high

SHARE prices closed 1.03 percent higher yesterday with gains in blue-chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and the banking sector leading the market, dealers said. They said the uptick in banks was due to speculation of a fresh round of consolidation in the industry.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 20.41 points to close at the day's high of 2,010.41. It earlier hit a low of

SHARES/B2

Dell picks RP for major call center project

DELL Inc., the world's biggest computer systems company, will open a customer contact center in the Philippines early next year.

It will be the American company's second call center in Asia that will cater to Dell's global market, the first being established in India.

Dell plans initially to hire and train approximately 700 technical support and customer service agents and will begin recruiting for 70 key leadership and administrative positions by the end of this month.

Dell expects to begin recruiting and hiring technical support specialists in November from new offices at the RCBC Plaza Tower in Makati City. The company said in a statement it would complete due diligence this quarter on a location for its contact center, which is scheduled to begin operations in February 2006.

Dell selected the Philippines

for the customer contact center expansion because of its high-quality work force with strong language and communication skills. The Philippines has about 100 contact centers, more than 200 colleges and universities and more than 650,000 college students.

Dell has consistently led its industry in phone-based personal computer technical support services for customers. It has expanded its customer services capabilities from hardware to include software and applications services such as assistance with virus and spyware issues. Dell also has expanded its customer support channels to include online, such as the Dell Community Forum, e-mail and chat in order to give customers multiple, convenient ways to access technical support.

DELL/B2

Smart, Piltel launch new promo

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s Talk N' Text will begin offering a P15 per 5-minute-call to its prepaid subscribers.

The promo will start on Aug. 12 and end on Sept. 11.

At the same time, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has tightened its P10-per-call Telebadad promo strictly within the PLDT fixed-line

SMART/B2

WHAT'S INSIDE BOC misses July collection target

/B2

PPA income hit P1.4B in H1

/B3

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BOC misses July collection target

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE CUSTOMS bureau missed its collection target for July by a wide margin, due to the business disruption caused by the political upheaval in the country.

"The statistics for July are extraordinarily different," said Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, Senate Economic Affairs chair.

At the Bureau of Customs, Roxas pointed out that the value of imports were down by 55 percent, while the volume of imports were also lower by 21 percent.

Apart from the Customs bureau, other revenue agencies of the government also missed their targets significantly, Roxas said after the Senate committee heard the testimonies of Finance officials.

The Bureau of Customs has been tasked to raise at least P151.1 billion this year—representing 20 percent of total projected revenues.

Roxas—who served as Trade secretary under the Estrada and Arroyo administrations—pointed out that tax collections have been affected by the ongoing political crisis.

He said that collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue were below target by only P5.4 billion in the first half, but the figures for the month of July alone showed a shortfall of already P6.76 billion.

Despite the poor revenue performances, Roxas said he was willing to give President Macapagal-Arroyo's new economic managers a chance to prove themselves by reversing the fiscal setbacks.

"If their performance in July is repeated in August and September, then we know that something is really wrong," he said.

The BIR and the BOC are government's largest collection agencies, accounting for 90 percent of total revenues.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government will aim to contain its budget shortfall to P110 billion next year, or an equivalent of 1.9 percent of local economic output.

This is lower than the P140 billion set earlier by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee.

During the Senate hearing, Teves also reiterated his confidence in this year's P180-billion deficit target, adding that the Finance Department will borrow soon up to \$1 billion from the international credit market to shore up the government's cash position.

BSP may hold off hike in key rates

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas may still hold off further increases in its key policy rates for now despite possible pressure from the US Federal Reserve which again hiked interest rates by 25 basis points.

"Right now, we don't see yet a need to take action," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo yesterday said, noting that the institution would not want to weigh down the country's economic momentum.

"We're holding our horses because of the potential collateral effect on economic activity," he said.

Although the fresh rate hike by the US Fed had narrowed the differential between local and US interest rates, Guinigundo said it was not likely to disrupt the current monetary setting.

The US Federal Open Market Committee yesterday jacked up its targeted funds rate by another quarter percentage to 3.5 percent. The foreign markets expect another 25-basis point hike by September.

The BSP, for its part, has kept its overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate at 7 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9.25 percent.

Dell picks RP for major call center . . .

From page B1

Dell's customer contact center network extends to more than 30 locations around the world that provide support anywhere in the world any time of day.

"As we grow our business, there is a continuous need to hire the best technical support expertise we can find to give our customers the best possible computing and entertainment experience," said John Hamlin, Dell senior vice president.

Writhing on the wall

BY THIS time, most of us down here in my barangay have seen the writing on the wall, and we now have a clear idea of how this besieged cute administration of Gloriaetta plans to send us to jail or drive us off the wall, whichever comes first.

Actually we are a bit late. Everybody else in this country already got it a while ago, not to mention the rest of the world, such as our creditors and some likely investors.

They have run away, in fact, after following this vigorous exchange of barb in the highest places of our national armpit known as politics.

Our dear politicians—both the "pro" and the "anti" Gloriaetta sides—of course try to disinfest their swapping of insults by referring it as a healthy debate on national interest.

Down here in my barangay, we are on to this political game, and we know now it is nothing but a scheme for the government to get more money from us.

As if we're not already writhing in pain from the skyrocketing prices of goods, all this political drama is actually just another smokescreen for more taxes. *Buhay ka pa!*

AS THE, ah, healthy political debate goes on, the pro-Gloriaetta camp is trying to score a grand slam in the popularity game.

And so, this broke cute administration is spending public money like a drunken sailor who has terminal illness and just won the lottery—in dollars.

Down here, we know such moves of this cute administration for raising Gloriaetta's popularity rating simply as "pogi" points.

Well, in the case of this cute administration, they are known as "cute" points.

Anyway, those "pogi" or "cute" points are costing a great deal of money—in fact, by the billions of pesos of our hard-earned tax money.

FOR instance, we hear from our barangay officials that this cute administration is setting aside P3 billion for its so-called micro-lending program.

There is no known record of this cute rating-lusting administration's micro lending program.

Just how successful it has been so far in the micro-lending program, nobody can as yet say, pending the "jueteng" hearings in the Senate, and the impeachment move in the House of Representatives.

Yet the plan, according to our sources from the Palace, is to release P3 billion for the program just like that. Wow!

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Conrado R. Banal III

We must be rich!

EVERY DAY, we hear and read in media that the "pro" and the "anti" camps are accusing each other of bribing witnesses left and right.

A provincial governor from the south told us that star "anti" witness, Louie Zuce, was first offered to this cute administration for a bargain price of P20 million.

I know what you are thinking: It is a lot of money for a guy like Zuce. What you don't know is that most of the money would go to his handlers—also politicians.

We just have one question. And that is, where does all that reported bribe money come from, like it just rains down from heaven or grows on trees or something?

Sure, the speculation is that it came from abroad, withdrawn perhaps from some bank accounts of the rich and powerful—or the powerful who just became rich.

Ultimately, nevertheless, it all comes from the public, or at least at the expense of the public. Oops, that means the guys down here again.

IN THE same manner, where did the money that this PR guy, codenamed Ralph Lauren in media circles, was said to be distributing to the media's chosen few, come from?

It did not from a bottomless well, I suppose.

Anyway, RL was said to be working—undercover—for the "pro" side, since talk has it that he is related to a top politician close to Gloriaetta.

That is the guy who also worked for certain government officials, such as during the scandal over the Jose Pidal bank accounts, which did not turn out to be the accounts of the First Gentleman, Miguel Arroyo, but the accounts of his brother, who is also implicated in the jueteng scandal, although the witnesses are already asking for forgiveness all of a sudden.

No wonder, with all that money supposedly set aside for the media campaign of this scandal-ridden cute administration, the popularity rating of Gloriaetta is still a NEGATIVE 27 percent.

So where did all that money go?

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Our hero supposedly requisitioned an expensive mobile phone unit to be given as a, well, "gift" to the business editor of a major daily.

Before the editor could even see the shadow of the mobile phone, it went immediately to the kid of the PR guy.

From what I hear, he was suspended by his boss, and not actually fired. Well, his backer in the same company interceded for him.

And they say politics is dirty.

FROM the House of Representatives, we hear tales of wonder about how some Palace officials are promising heaven and earth to some congresspersons, but not including their properties.

One congressman from the north confessed to us that Palace officials promised him an "executive" position in this cute administration.

But that is only if, well, this besieged cute administration can still hold on to power, come hail or high water or the forthcoming economic crisis.

Down here, we can nevertheless understand the dilemma among our beloved congresspersons.

Foremost in their minds is this question: Can they trust the word of Gloriaetta, since she gained popularity for saying one thing and just doing another.

Thus, the better choice for our congresspersons must be ... well, the usual pork.

News just exploded that this insolvent cute administration is preparing for the release of funding for multi-billion peso infrastructure projects.

Many of them are of course the favorite projects of none other than our congresspersons.

We all know what happens to a good part of the money for such favorite projects.

No, it does not go straight to the pockets of congresspersons. It goes first to the contractor.

LATELY, the headlines screamed again about the budget deficit.

It seems that this financially lame cute administration is going to exceed the ceiling on the deficit it set on itself prior to this healthy political debate, i.e. chaos.

Down here, we all know that if this cute administration spends like a drunken sailor who just found out he is the long lost son of Henry Sy, somehow it must try to raise more revenue.

And it does that by imposing more new taxes, and by collecting more taxes by threatening everybody with court cases.

In other words, we, the public, better cough up. Or else they will send us all to jail. I guess I'll just see you there.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE				
(As of Aug. 10, 2005)				
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES				
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32	32	32
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50	49.5	50
China Banking Corp.	780	780	780	780
Citibank Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53	53	51	51.5
International Exch. Bank	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
Philippine National Bank	47	47	46.5	47
Rural Comm. Banking Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75
Security Bank Corp.	34	34	33.5	34
Union Bank of the Phil.	32.5	32.5	32	32
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
Manila Financial Corp.	2800	2800	2800	2800
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	140	140	140	140
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	2010	2010	2010	2010
Sum Life Financial Inc.	140	140	140	140
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL				
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	14.75	13.75	14.75
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	820	810	810
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Philippine Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.2
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	1635	1685	1635	1685
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017
POWER, ENERGY & UTILITIES				
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	15	15
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25	25	25
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES				
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS				
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05
Republic Cement Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	31
Jollibee Foods Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68
PRM Corp.	69	69.5	68	69.5
San Miguel Corp. A	99.5	100	99.5	100
San Miguel Corp. B	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75
Universal Robina Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
HOLDING FIRMS				
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Ayala Corp.	310	312.5	305	310
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.58	0.58
Abolito Equity Ventures	4.9	5	4.9	5
Alliance Global Group Inc.	9.8	10	9.8	10
A. Soriano Corp.	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.025
APC Group Inc.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.04
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007
PHM Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.68
Benpres Holdings Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
Basic Consolidated Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16
CAOP Group Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205
Southeast Asian Cement	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
SMI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24
Ever-Goteco Resources	3.05	3.15	3	3.05

THURSDAY,
AUGUST 11, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS

B3

PPA income hit P1.4B in H1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority has registered a net income of P1.37 billion in the first half, up just 1.7 percent from last year as higher expenses muted the impact of a modest growth in revenue.

PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla said, however, that the first semester performance still surpassed the agency's expectations. Thus, the port operator raised its full year profit target to P1.9 billion from an earlier forecast of P1.4 billion.

Revenue estimates were also revised to P5.9 billion against an original target of P5.6 billion, while expenses were seen dropping to P3.95 billion from an original estimate of P4.16 billion.

Aida Dizon, PPA assistant general manager for finance, said the revenue in the first half went up 5.96 percent to P2.87 billion against P2.7 billion in the same period of 2004.

Expenses, however, spiked by 9.6 percent to P1.49 billion from P1.36 billion in the first semester of 2004.

The increase was due to higher costs of repair and maintenance of ports, increased spending for security, and payment for utilities like electricity, water and phone.

On port revenues, Dizon said some improvements in the volume of traffic led to an almost 4 percent gain in revenue.

"There were less foreign vessels but it seems that domestic traffic compensated," Dizon said.

Stevedoring and arrastre operations likewise improved, although wharfage collection was down.

This was due to the government's decision to reduce its fees on roll-on, roll-off vessels to encourage the use of Roro.

The bulk of the revenue still came from the

Manila ports, accounting for about 60 percent of the agency's total collections.

The PPA is tasked to operate

government-owned ports, help regulate the maritime industry and put up more ports to improve the flow of goods and services.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar Sts. Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 400-3918 / 339-2013

IN RE : LABOR DISPUTE AT
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MANILA

CASE NO: OS-AJ-0051-95
NCMB-NCR-NS-09-399-95

NOTICE OF SALE ON EXECUTION OF REAL PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Writ of Execution issued by the Honorable PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS, Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment on 18 July 2005 in the above-entitled case and in accordance with Rule 39, Section 15(c) of the New Rules of Court in the Philippines, the undersigned Sheriff/s will sell at a public auction to the highest in CASH and in PHILIPPINE CURRENCY on 05 September 2005 at 10:00 AM of thereafter at the Sheriffs Section, 2/F DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. Malvar Sts., Malate, Manila, the described REAL PROPERTY and all improvements thereof, in order to satisfy said Writ of Execution, together with interests, costs, Sheriffs fees and other expenses of sale, to wit:

BUILDING with TAX DECLARATION No. EB-019-01606

"Building with Tax Declaration No. EB-019-01606 located at Lot 1, Blk. 22, University Park Global City, Taguig, metro Manila containing an area of SIXTY NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR SQUARE METERS (69,424 sq. m.) situated on the land of BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (B.C.D.A.), under TCT No. 36191, Brgy. Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City".

Manila, Philippines. August 09, 2005.

(signed)
ROMEO NOEL B. BAQUILO
Sheriff

(signed)
RONALDO P. ESPINOSA
Sheriff

Warning: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice on or before the Date of auction under penalty of law.

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Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. Tel. No. (032) 231502, Fax No. (032) 2314488
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QUEZON CITY

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Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

**INVITATION TO APPLY
FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-230	Various Forms for Printing (BIR Tax Payment Deposit Slip, Withdrawal and Cash Deposit Slip)	P 4,844,500.00	LBP Funds
2005-236	Two Year Lease of Armored Vehicles for Head Office and various branches	142,512,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

The Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 and P15,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-230 and 2005-236, respectively.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on August 19, 2005 for ITB No. 2005-230 and August 23, 2005 for ITB No. 2005-236 at 10:00 AM at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila. Bidding dates are on August 31, 2005 and September 7, 2005 for ITB Nos. 2005-230 and 2005-236, respectively.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

(PDI - August 11 & 16, 2005)

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on Aug. 26, 2005, 2:00 pm., 2nd Floor-Conference Room of DBP Commonwealth Branch, Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
CHATELLETS (sale as one lot and "as is, where-is" basis)			
CWB-29	Bldg. 693 Gridley St., SRF Compound, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City	Various machinery and equipment for food processing (1-Fully Automatic Convection Conveyor Oven, 1-Automatic Turbo Dryer Convection Blower, 4-Universal Food Cooker, 2-Universal Mixing/Seasoning Machines, 2-High Pressure Boilers, 1-Vacuum Sealing/Packaging Machine, 1-Meat Rolling Machine, 1-Walk-in-Freezer, 1-Canning/Seaming Machine, 1-Meat Slicer Machine, 4-Automatic Sealing Machines; 10 Fabricated Basins, 4-Active Stacking Tripods-High Grade, 6-Active Stacking Tripods, 10 Manual Sealing Machines)	P8,000,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

- To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
- To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the Acquired Asset Unit-Ground Floor, DBP-Commonwealth Branch during office hours; and
- To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 920-49-09/920-49-18/920-47-03
TELEFAX: 92048-98

DBP-COMMONWEALTH BRANCH

(PDI-Aug. 11 & 12, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be accepted and thereafter opened on September 7, 2005 at the time set hereunder, at the Training Room, Main Building, Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, for the sale of the following SRA lots.

LOCATION	TCT	LOT AREA	COST/SQ.M.	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
Blk 29, Lot 1A	236385	380 sq.m.	Php 6,000.00	Php 2,280,000.00
Blk 15, Lot 3B	133294	779 sq.m.	6,500.00	5,063,500.00
Blk 33	133688	2,499 sq.m.	6,000.00	14,994,000.00
		3,658 sq.m.		Php 22,337,500.00

B. Lot No. 2293-A in front of Villa Del Sol at Barangay Maglitan, San Fernando, Pampanga

LOCATION	TCT	LOT AREA	COST/SQ.M.	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
Lot No. 2293-A	86098-R	20,000 sq.m.	Php 500.00	Php 10,000,000.00

Bid forms including the Rules and Regulations and other documents pertinent to the sale of lots at P1,000.00 per bid per individual lot shall be issued by the Secretariat, SRA Disposal Committee starting August 26, 2005.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE OF ACTIVITY
Issuance of Letter of Intent and Prequalification Forms	August 11-19, 2005
Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent and Prequalification Requirements	August 22, 2005
Issuance of Bid Forms and the Rules and Regulations on the sale of lots	August 26, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference	August 31, 2005 9:00 AM
Public Bidding	September 7, 2005 9:00 AM

The purpose of the Pre-Bidding Conference is to address issues regarding the disposal of the lots at the SRA, Training Room, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

All bids must be accompanied by a deposit either in cash or Manager's/Cashier's check equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

For inquiries, please call:

The Disposal Committee Secretariat
Tel. No. 929-6697.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) AIDA F. IGNACIO
Chairperson, Disposal Committee

(PDI - Aug. 10, 11 & 12, 2005)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Environmental Management Bureau-Cordillera Administrative Region (EMB-CAR) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Baguio City is inviting interested Suppliers of Air Quality Monitoring Equipment to submit bids for the following:

DESCRIPTION: Supply and installation of Continuous Automatic Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System that would suit Baguio City's topography and Climate.

Approved DBM Budget Code: P 10,000,000.00

Interested suppliers/bidders may submit documents for eligibility check as per RA 9184 (Envelope A) on or before August 23, 2005 at EMB-CAR, DENR, Baguio City upon payment of a refundable fee of P500.00 to qualify for bidding.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on August 23, 2005 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the EMB-CAR Conference Room, DENR-CAR Compound, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City. Deadline for the submission of bids and a refundable fee of 2.5% Surety Bond of the bidden amount (Envelope B) will be on September 5, 2005 on or before 12:00 o'clock noon. A product presentation of qualified bidders and opening of Bids will follow at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

The EMB-CAR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract as provided for under the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROLANDO C. REYES
Chairman, EMB-CAR BAC

(PDI-Aug 11 & 16, 2005)



Swift Foods, Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of SWIFT FOODS, INC. will be held at the Auditorium, RFM Corporate Center, Pioneer corner Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong City on 01 September 2005 at 2:30 P.M.

Stockholders of record as of 08 August 2005 shall be entitled to vote at this meeting.

The stock and transfer books of the Corporation will not be closed.

This Notice is hereby given pursuant to the By-Laws of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) CRISTINA D. REYES
Corporate Secretary

AGENDA

- INVOCATION
- NOTICE OF MEETING
- CERTIFICATION ON THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM
- APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2004
- OPENING STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
- PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
- RATIFICATION OF THE ACTS OF MANAGEMENT AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION
- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
- AMENDMENT OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
 - ARTICLE VII (TERMS OF THE PREFERRED SHARES)
- AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS
 - ARTICLE V (PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS)
- APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR
- OTHER MATTERS
- ADJOURNMENT

(PDI - August 11, 2005)

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PALs Batch 3 schedule
August 12 from 6 PM to 11:45 PM
August 13 and 14, 2005 from 9AM to 8 PM
Venue : U210 Cattleya Building 235 Salcedo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City

Interested parties may inquire at 840-5958 and 840-5960, or text 0922-8007326 or email at powerspeak@gmail.com or log on to www.powerspeakph.com.

Investment : P7,000.00 with Early Bird Discount of 10% if paid before August 12

**POWERSPEAK'S PERSONAL AWARENESS AND LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**

Shown are the graduates of the second batch of PowerSpeak's Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar (PALs) held last July 15-17. The graduates attest that the three-day seminar was highly experiential and insightful, providing them with an enlightening fresh perspective towards life. PALs is based on the fundamental principle that each individual possesses unlimited, untapped potential and unlocking this allows a person to achieve greater results and abundance. Also in photo is Joey P. Reyes, (third row) first from right (wearing a suit), facilitator and president of PowerSpeak Inc. PALs third batch is slated on Aug. 12-14. Interested parties may inquire at 840-5958 and 840-5960, or text 0922-8007326. You may also email them at powerspeak@gmail.com or log on to www.powerspeakph.com.

Transco Mindanao builds new headquarters

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corporation (TransCo) is constructing a new building for its Mindanao headquarters in Iligan City to better serve its customers and stakeholders in the region.

The Mindanao Operation and Maintenance and attached functional groups will transfer from the Mindanao Regional Center in Dituacan, Iligan City, to its new building which sits on a one-hectare land located at the adjacent Barangay Maria Cristina also in Iligan City by the third quarter of the year.

TransCo President Dr. Alan Ortiz visited the site during the corporation's fourth anniversary celebration, and said that the 'building is a gift to the people, built to last for the coming generations.' Once the building is done in October, this will complete TransCo Mindanao's spin-off from that of MinGen or Napocor.

Shown are Iligan City acting Mayor Henry C. Dy and First Lady Esterlita Dy leading the ribbon cutting rites together with TransCo president Alan T. Ortiz.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of RFM CORPORATION will be held at the Auditorium, RFM Corporate Center, Pioneer corner Sheridan Streets, Mandaluyong City on 1 September 2005 at 10:30 A.M.

Stockholders of record as of 8 August 2005 shall be entitled to vote at this meeting.

The stock and transfer books of the Corporation will not be closed.

This Notice is hereby given pursuant to the By-Laws of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) CRISTINA D. REYES
Asst. Corporate Secretary

AGENDA

- INVOCATION
- NOTICE OF MEETING
- CERTIFICATION ON THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM
- APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
- PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
- RATIFICATION OF THE ACTS OF MANAGEMENT AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION
- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
- AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION. PARTICULARLY, ARTICLES SIXTH AND SEVENTH REDUCING THE NUMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ELEVEN (11) AND RECLASSIFICATION OF SHARES
- ISSUANCE OF STOCK DIVIDENDS
- AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS TO COMPLY WITH THE MANUAL OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
- APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR
- OTHER MATTERS
- ADJOURNMENT

(PDI - August 11, 2005)

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OBITUARIES



In Memory of Our Beloved Atty. RAZON TUMBOCON-HARESCO on her 4th Death Anniversary August 11, 2005

Her children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join the family in prayer for the eternal repose of Nanay Zoning's soul.
Holy Masses will be offered by her friends in the Clergy at the following churches:



Church/Chapel	Celebrated By	Address	Time
Poor Clare Monastery	Most Rev. DIOSDADO A. TALAMAYAN, D.D. Archbishop of Tuguegarao	Igulig Cagayan	5:00 PM
St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral	Most Rev. SOFRONIO A. BANCUD, SSS, D.D. Bishop of Cabanatuan	Cabanatuan City	6:00 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral	Most Rev. FLORENTINO F. CINENSE D.D. Bishop of Tarlac	Tarlac City	9:00 AM
Monastery of Saint Clare	Most Rev. EMILIO Z. MARQUEZ, D.D. Bishop of Lucena	Sariaya, Quezon	9:00 AM
Christ the King Parish Church	Most Rev. RAUL Q. MARTINEZ, D.D. Bishop Emeritus of San Jose de Antique	Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage Shrine	Most Rev. GABRIEL V. REYES, D.D. Bishop of Antipolo	Antipolo City	7:00 AM
St. Dominic Cathedral St. Clare Monastery CBCP Chapel	Most Rev. RAMON B. VILLENA, D.D. Bishop of Bayombong Rev. Fr. JUANITO S. FIGUERA Asst. Secretary General (Catholic Bishops Conference of the Phils.) Rev. Fr. JAMES BUMANGABANG, OAR Rev. Fr. HERMOGENES BACAREZA, SVD Rev. Fr. JOSEBERT VILLASIS Rev. Fr. ELSO NALANGAN Rev. Fr. JESSIE GUILLARGAN	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya Aniñao Nueva Vizcaya Intramuros, Manila	6:00 PM 3:00 PM 11:30 AM
Colegio de Sta. Rosa Chapel Catholic Trade Chapel Sto. Niño Seminary Chapel, High School Sto. Niño Seminary Chapel, College Sto. Niño Seminary Chapel Main Chapel St. Joseph the Worker Church San Roque Chapel	Rev. Fr. JESSIE PANDONGAN Rev. Fr. CESAR ECHEGARAY	Numancia, Aklan Lagingbansa West Numancia, Aklan	6:00 AM 6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de La Paz De Vian Viaje Chapel San Roque Chapel	Rev. Fr. JOHN JEROME VELARDE Rev. Fr. PAUL SAYON	Bulwag, Numancia Camaci Sur Numancia, Aklan	5:00 PM 6:30 PM
Sacro Cosato Chapel	Rev. Fr. GERMANIO FELIPE JR.	Bahaw Sur Kalibo, Aklan	6:00 AM
St. Peter - St. Paul Church	Rev. Fr. JEFFREY JIMENEZ Rev. Fr. ANGELO CONSEMINO Rev. Fr. VICTOR SALIDO Rev. Fr. JOJIE ESMERALDA	Itbay, Aklan New Washington Aklan	6:00 AM 7:00 AM 6:00 AM
St. Peter - St. Paul Church Shrine of the Holy Rosary Church	Rev. Fr. ZALDY ZARANDIN Rev. Fr. CHARLES ISAGAN	Libacao, Aklan Marcelo Green Village Parañaque City	6:00 AM 6:45 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM
St. Catherine of Alexandra Church Mary Mother of Good Counsel	Rev. Fr. MARLON RASGO Rev. Fr. TITO GELITO Msgr. MICHAEL BALARIA	Nabas, Aklan Malay, Aklan Mabini Cabanatuan City	6:00 AM 6:00 AM 6:00 AM
St. Isidro Church St. Joseph the Worker Church Mary Mother of Perpetual Help			

SISTER DOLLY DAQUILANEA, A.R., Facilitator
Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters
CBCP, Intramuros, Manila

(Offerings/donations to the Sto. Niño Seminary, Numancia, Aklan or the Maria Assumpta Seminary, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija are deeply appreciated. Please contact Carol or Aubrey at +632-8982251-54 of Haresco & Associates)

In Loving Memory On the 9th Death Anniversary of **AMBROSIO BIBBY PADILLA**

on August 11, 2005

The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 NN, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches:

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	5:00 am
Basilica San Martin de Tours, Taal, Batangas	5:00 am
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City	5:15 am
Immaculate Conception Parish, Antipolo Cathedral	6:00 am
St. John Mary Vianney Parish, Antipolo City	6:00 am
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:00 am
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	6:00 am
Nuestra Señora De Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City	6:00 am
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Parish, Magallanes	6:15 am
Sanctuario De San Jose Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:15 am
Parish of St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang Village	6:20 am
Don Bosco, Makati City	6:30 am
St. John the Baptist Parish, Pinaglabanan St., San Juan	6:30 am
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kanlaon, Quezon City	7:00 am
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	7:00 am
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Intramuros, Manila	7:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Blvd., Quezon City	8:00 am
Blessed Sacrament Fathers & Brothers (Sta. Cruz Church), Manila	8:00 am
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice (U.P.) Diliman, Quezon City	12:00 nn
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel-Air II, Makati City	12:15 pm
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang Village	12:15 pm
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila	5:30 pm
Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish, Katipunan Rd., Quezon City	6:00 pm
Sanctuario De San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park	6:00 pm/6:15 am
Chapel of St. Thomas More, Aleneo, Rockwell, Makati City	6:05 pm
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of Edsa), Quezon City	7:00 pm
St. John the Baptist Parish, Pinaglabanan St., San Juan	7:15 pm

His children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

SEBASTIAN "Buster" G. SONGSONG

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 08, 2005.

His loving wife Susang; children Raul (+), Elison, Evelyn (Beng) and Joel, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, brother David, in-laws, nephews & nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

He will be put to rest on Saturday, August 13, after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 10:00 a.m. Cremation follows at 1:00 p.m.

"...absent
from the
body to be
present
with the
Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

DOLORITO M. VILLARIN

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 8, 2005 at the age of 58.

His loving wife **EVEN**; children **MALOU** and **ERWIN**, **BABYLIZA**, **MIKE** and **CECIL**; grandchildren **RENZE**, **SYDNY**, **TWYNN**, **KOBE** & **ALLEN**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla Aurora A of Arlington East The Garden Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Ave., Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 14, 2005 at The Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington East The Garden Chapel.



Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLASSIFIEDS



DIMAGIBA



FABRO

20th Oathtaking Ceremonies set for New Real Estate Brokers and Appraisers

THE REALTY Service Council of the Philippines (Rescop), the advisory body to the Department of Trade and Industry, will be holding its 20th Oathtaking Ceremonies of New Real Estate Brokers & Appraisers who successfully passed the November 2004 Brokers' and Appraisers' Examinations conducted by the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) - Bureau of Trade Regulation & Consumer Protection (BTRCP) on August 27, 5 P.M. at the Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan. For new brokers and appraisers, this formalizes the new practitioners' entry to the field of real estate service practice.

BTRCP director, Victorio Mario Dimagiba will be administering the oath.

The 20th Oathtaking Ceremonies will be hosted by the Real Estate Borkers' Association of the Philippines Inc. and is being coordinated by Rebap's Rescop representative, and overall committee Chair Delia C. Fabro, under the direction and supervision of the Rescop chair and BTRCP director.

All examinees who passed the November 2004 appraisers' and real estate brokers' examinations and previous passers who have not yet taken their oath are enjoined to participate in the event. Rebap secretariat can be contacted at 3732280 / 3732281 or 09198395633 for details. All national and chapter/board real estate association officers and members are cordially invited to attend the Fellowship that will follow afterwards.



REBAP'S 2ND GMM A SUCCESS

Rebap's 2nd General Membership Meeting (GMM) held last June 29, at the Roofdeck of Prestige Tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig City was a very big success. Another feather was added to the 2005 national board because as in the First GMM it was a full pack. Highlights of the affair was the announcement of Naga chapter about the forthcoming National Convention and the final judging to the cover design contest of the 2005 Souvenir Program and lastly the MOA signing of one of our business partners in the industry Las Haciendas project of Phoenix Land Inc.

Imported Vietnam rice arrives in Region 8

A TOTAL of 945,900 bags of Vietnam rice have been delivered in Region 8 since January this year to ensure the region's food security especially during the lean months of July to September, according to National Food Authority (NFA) regional director Benjamin B. Marta. He said the local NFA office is yet to receive 469,100 bags since the region's programmed imported rice allocation totals 1,415,000 bags. All these stocks are being shipped from Cebu. Marta said that these rice stocks are strategically positioned in various NFA warehouses regionwide, ready for distribution, for the purpose of stabilizing rice supply and prices. The NFA is closely undertaking market monitoring especially at this time to ensure that the basic staple remains within affordable levels, Marta said. He explained that the agency distributes government rice through the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) outlets and the NFA accredited outlets all over the region. In turn, the BGP outlets sell regular-milled rice (RMR) at P16/kg while other NFA accredited retailers sell well-milled rice (WMR) at P18/kg to ultimate consumers. Marta assures that the agency has enough rice stocks for supply stabilization purposes since the NFA has always put in place contingency plans especially during the lean months.

People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

First Day Funk redefines the first day of school

WE HAVE to admit, there's just something about school – especially the first day – that makes it so horrifyingly dreadful. Not this school year though, because Rexona's First Day Funk definitely changed the way students, and even teachers, viewed the first day of school. Whoever thought that one's first day as a college freshman, a transferee or even a senior will ever be far-out exciting and happening? The First Day Funk has just made that a definite possibility.

Students from Taft, Katipunan, Mendiola, España, Sta. Mesa, Davao and Cebu will never think of the first day of school in the same way again because with the advent of the First Day Funk came a torrent of cheers and thrills. With the cutesy and wacky MTV bunch, the comical and quick-witted Wazzup! Wazzup! jocks led by Charles "Rexona Guy" Lejano himself and of course, the short but sensational Parokya ni Edgar mini concert, First Day Funk successfully redefined the first day of



WAZZUP with Charles? Rexona main man Charles Lejano in his signature neon polo challenged selected folks with his out of this world questions and FDF dance moves.

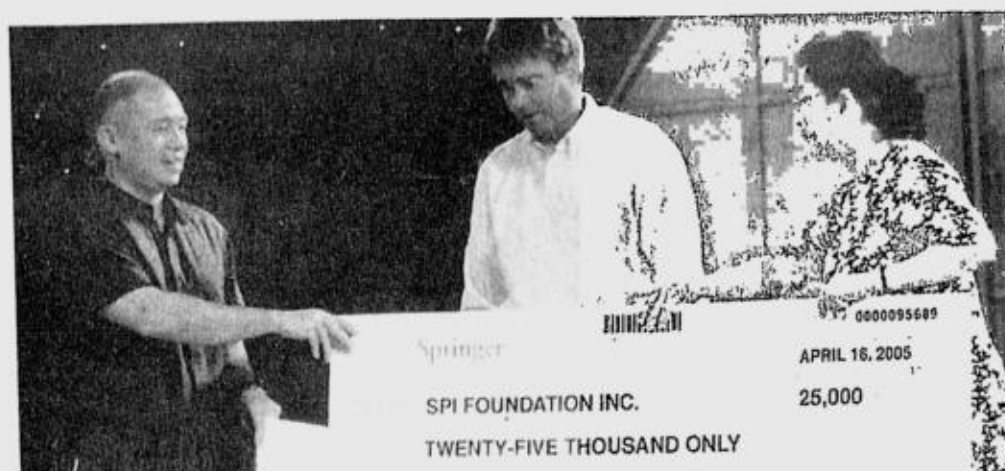
school. First Day Funk has rocked the likes of De La Salle University, University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, San Beda, Centro Escolar University, San Sebastian, University of the East, Far Eastern University and the rest of the U-belt area, the University of Cebu and the University of Mindanao.

So forget about trying to blend in or shying away from the limelight. First

Day Funk is all about having the funky confidence to stand up and stand out. Being able to do the signature FDF dance steps isn't just a display of one's dance skills; it's the ultimate expression of spunk and personal style. When you do the moves – Salute the Prof, Raise Your Hand, Classmate High Five, Erase the Board and Dunno the Answer, do it with a smile and a whole lot of funk!

Because there's definitely more in store for all Funkistas out there! After the fun-filled wave of school invasions by the First Day Funkistas come even more surprises including the First Day Funk Promo where you can be one of the 50 laptop winners or be the sole FDF millionaire.

First Day Funk isn't just about the first few months of the year. It's about making every single day of the year as exciting as that funky first day when Parokya ni Edgar rocked your world. So make the rest of the year delightfully memorable and gear up for even bigger thrills next school year.



SPRINGER SCIENCE DONATES TO SPI TECHNOLOGIES FOUNDATION

The SPI Technologies Foundation receives from SPI client, Springer Science + Business Media, a US\$25,000 donation for its projects promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR). Martin Mos, chief operation officer of Springer Science + Business Media (center) presented a ceremonial check to Ernest Cu, SPI Technologies Inc president and chief executive officer, and Lucy Agila, foundation director during SPI's 25th anniversary

celebration held at the PNB grounds on Roxas Blvd. As one of the world's leaders in business process outsourcing, SPI has launched CSR projects such as its 'Adopt A School', an information technology education partnership program with selected public elementary schools. It is also involved with building Gawad Kalinga homes initially targeting the community at the St. Mary's Compound, Barangay Moonwalk in Parañaque.

Philippine Retirement Authority gains unprecedented growth

THE PHILIPPINE Retirement Authority, headed by its general manager Dr. Nelson P. Collantes, reported an unprecedented growth in its operations based on its initial financial figures for the First Semester of 2005 resulting in the best semestral performance ever in the Authority's 20 years of existence. Comparing the semi-annual fiscal year figures of 2005 with 2004, revenue increased by almost 15 percent while operating costs decreased by 13 percent, resulting in a 40 percent increase in net inflow before tax and foreign currency adjustments. This meant PRA generated P79M in "Gross Revenue", exceeding by P10 million the P69M "Gross Revenue" mark of First Semester of 2004. This jump in revenue performance can be attributed to increased retiree-visa enrollment, improved fees collection from accredited banks and improved monitoring of visitatorial fees.

Comparing the First Semester FY 2005 (P27.7M) with 2004 (P31.9M), "Total Operating Costs and Expenses" were drastically reduced by P4.2M. This performance is made more significant because it comes at a time when costs of everything are spiraling upwards. More efficient operations paved the way for a decrease in the "Costs of Personal Services" and Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses" (MOOE) resulting in savings of P2M and P2.2M, respectively.

Pursuant to Administrative Order 103, this Authority has implemented effective fiscal dis-

cipline, such as having drastically reduced the number of consultants; outsourced additional personnel; rationalized official foreign missions and local travels; strengthened in-house training programs; compensated overtime work with "time-offsetting" scheme; and reduced the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE).

Finally, comparing the semi-annual's net inflow figures of FY 2005 (P51.7M) with FY 2004 (P37M), the combined effect of increased revenues and decreased costs produced a remarkable "Net Inflow" of P14.7M. Last year, as a government-owned and controlled corporation, the Authority remitted to the National Government P40,721,839.45 in cash dividends and P34,065,331.86 in income taxes. With this First Semester 2005 performance, the Authority expects to exceed the 2004 remittances to the government.

These figures translate to improved revenue earnings per P1 spent in operations. This year the Authority earned P2.87 per P1 spent as compared to last year with P2.16 earnings per P1 cost. In terms of payback ratio, the new figures showed a cost recovery period of 4 months, an improvement from last year's ratio of 6 months.

This very positive performance of the Authority in promoting the Philippines as an ideal retirement haven, even in the midst of difficult economic times, reflects the focus and dedication of the management and staff.



NURSE ADVOCATES CELEBRATE JUNE FEST!

HCCA Philippines, Manila Doctors College (MDC), Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH) joined visiting representatives from HCCA International's US client hospitals to celebrate June Fest! at Ilustrados in Intramuros. During June Fest, the thirteen foreign guests representing hospitals from various parts of the United States of America, selected more than 90 HCCA Filipino nurses, who will leave for the US to join their hospitals within the next six (6) to nine (9) months. This fast departure is the result of intensive advanced preparation by HCCA invested in the nurses prior to the US hospitals arriving in the Philippines to make their selections. HCCA has a

total of 18 hospitals in the US requiring nurse staffing. Present during the dinner, aside from the Americans, were officers of HCCA led by Joseph Gilinsky, vice president and managing director and MDC and MDH officers led by Aniceto Sobrepena, president. The dinner at Ilustrado showcased Philippine culture and the arts as intramuros best spouses Philippine culture during the Hispanic times. Cultural dances were performed by the students of Manila Doctor's College of Nursing. HCCA hires nurses through the POEA and interested nurses may call Blenda or Edwin from the Government Placement Branch at 722-1174 to 75 for hiring requirements.

Happy Feet Sandals' promo

ON ITS 3rd year from its rebirth, Marizza Manufacturing Corp, makers of the famous Happy Feet Sandals launches its anniversary promo dubbed as Buy One Get One Free Happy Feet Sandals. Every single purchase of any pair of Marizza Plain or Marizza stained model entitles you to their anniversary promo. Now is the perfect time to shop for a pair of Happy Feet contoured comfort sandals at their Store at 197 Wilson Street corner P. Guevarra Street, San Juan, Happy Feet Kiosk Activity center Glorietta, SM branches (Makati, Megamall, North Edsa, Centerpoint, Manila, Batangas, Dasmariñas, San Fernando, Bicutan, Bacoor, Southmall, San Izaar), Beauty Bar (Rockwell, Glorietta, Galleria, Gateway, Katipunan), 158 Designer's Boulevard, Landmark, Cinderella (Alabang Town Center, Glorietta, Megamall, and Panshoppe (Manila, North Edsa, Megamall, Centerpoint). Promo is from Aug. 6 to 31. For more information, contact Happy Feet at 725-2675 or telefax 723-5105, visit their website at www.happyfeetsandals.com, or write at queries@happyfeetsandals.com.

Festival Supermall's August offerings

THIS August, Festival Supermall will bring together the finest food products from the country's different regions and put them together in a Regional Food Fair from Aug. 15 to 23 at the 2nd level, Carousel Court. Savor delectable Thai dishes, sumptuous desserts, herbal beverages, and fruits like Lanzones and Tamarind from Aug. 12 to 14 through the Royal Thai Foodfest. Products from Thailand like different handicraft and the famous Thai silk will also be up for sale. There will be cooking demonstrations, Muay Thai (Thai martial arts) exhibition, cultural shows and parlor games. For those who love street races, the Hot Wheels' "Acceleracers" Adrenaline Street Race will kick off on Aug. 18 with the Grand Finals scheduled on Aug. 21 also at the Carousel Court. This will feature the newest Hot Wheels and matchbox play set. From Aug. 24 to Sept. 5, there will be a Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Trade Fair at the Carousel Court to give the public a taste of the province's wide selection of fresh fruits, vegetables and processed foods. For further information, you may call Festival Supermall Customer Service at 850-3514. Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Child prodigy to perform in the Philippines

CHILD prodigy Yuko Ohigashi, who is now a pretty and extremely talented 18-year-old composer-pianist of Japanese-Filipino-Chinese descent, born



LISTERINE POCKETPAKS, HUMAN TIE UP FOR PROMO

Coolmint Listerine Pocketpaks, the handy and quick breath-freshener innovation from Pfizer and Human, the premier casual clothing line for the style-driven youth tie up to give campus denizens an extra boost of confidence as the new school year begins with a free vial of Coolmint Listerine Pocketpaks with every P750 purchase at Human. Shown in photo during the signing of the agreement are: (left) Ramon Manzano III, account supervisor of Strategics Inc., the marketing communications agency representing Listerine Pocketpaks, and Kristine Lim, marketing division manager of Human.



LACOSTE FOOTWEAR OPENS IN ROBINSONS GALLERIA

Leading lifestyle brand Lacoste recently opened a freestanding footwear store in Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas, Pasig City. In this new retail location, the French label offers a wide selection of shoes both for men and women. The boutique features an all-white 'Access' theme, giving shoppers a

fresh ambiance, as they make their choice among the chic sportswear, as well as formal styles. Lacoste Footwear can also be found in Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Glorietta 3 in Ayala Center, Robinsons Place Manila, Power Plant Mall, The Podium, The Gateway Mall and SM City Davao.

Forum on Humanitarian Law set on IHL Day

IN OBSERVANCE of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Day on Aug. 12, the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will hold a forum on IHL from 1 to 4 p.m. at Casa Marinero, Intramuros, Manila. The theme of the event is "Protecting Human Dignity" to highlight the message that in times of armed conflict, the wounded, sick, detained and civilians must be respected and given humanitarian aid. Speakers and their topics during the forum are Dr. Symeon Antoulas, ICRC head of delegation, who will talk about "Protection of Victims of Armed Conflict"; Dr. Aurora Parang, convener of the PCICC on the topic "ICRC: Current Developments and Issues"; Akbayan Representative Mario Aguja on "IHL and Philippine Legislative Initiatives" and PSHL officer professor Harry Roque on "Criminal Nature of Child Soldiers". PNRC Chair Senator Richard Gordon will give the closing message.

Product FILES

Dr. P adult diaper

DR. P adult diaper is equipped with super absorbent pad that prevents leaks and maintains a dry feel. More importantly, it is the only one with antibiosis and deodorization layer that controls the growth of germs and neutralizes unpleasant odors. There is even a wetness indicator, which makes diaper checks extra convenient and accurate. Available variants are Basic for light incontinence, Standard for moderate incontinence, and Premium for heavy incontinence. Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc. Dr. P adult diapers are available at all leading supermarkets, groceries, and drug stores.



Silverworks for men

AS OLD as gold, silver has adorned the male form for centuries. To this day, it remains as the perfect metal to connote masculinity. Thanks to Silverworks' pioneering efforts, the men's silver jewelry market has taken off in the past few years with men in the mainstream comfortably buying sterling adornments historically worn by Hollywood stars and athletes. From sterling silver pendants to chunky link necklaces and bracelets, silver jewelry for men has come of age since the days when cufflinks were the only jewelry adornment offered in the men's accessory department. Silverworks pushes the envelope further in its new advertising campaign (developed by the Campaigns & Grey team lead by Ompong



Remigio and Boboy Consunji) which is directed at a strong male market. Just like Silverworks' design heritage, the campaign is bold and bodacious. It features Shanghai-based, Istanbul-born, Manhunt winner Murat, a perfect choice to demonstrate why Silverworks is the only silver that works, for men.

Walter Bread's Double Fiber Wheat Bread

IT'S HERE! Another quality product of Creative Bakers, the makers of Walter Bread, 2 natural fibers in 1 – apple and whole wheat. These two natural fibers are perfect for your health and good for your weight. This bread is also packed with health benefits – higher fiber content than traditional wheat bread, helps reduce the risk of heart disease and colon cancer, aids digestion, and lowers blood sugar level. Double Fiber Wheat Bread is now available at all leading supermarkets and groceries in GMA.

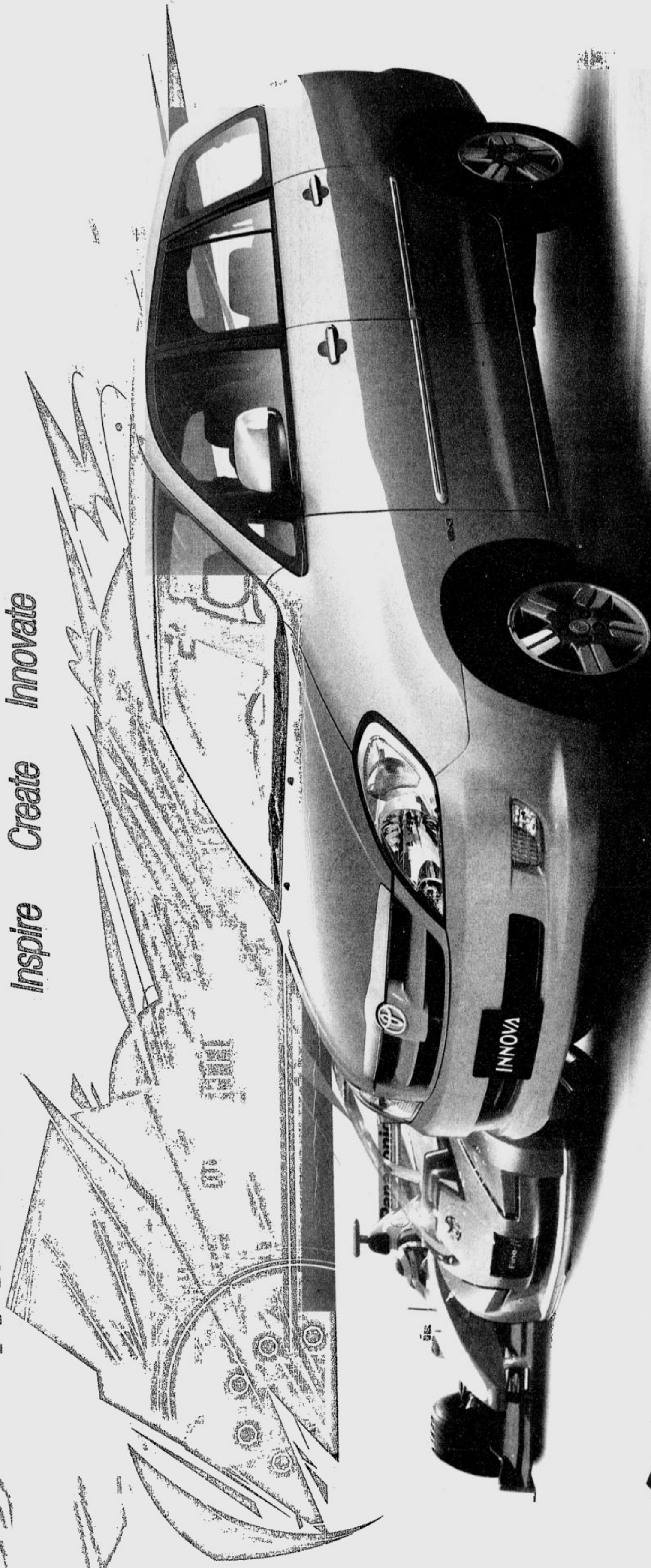


Passion

Be ready for the most exhilarating motorshow ever!

THE WORLD OF TOYOTA

Inspire Create Innovate



See you at the World Trade Center on August 12 to 19.

Be part of this grand extravaganza that is Toyota's way of celebrating its 17th anniversary and thanking all its valued customers for making Toyota Number 1! Be there as Toyota exhibits the concept car of the future, Fine-N, the superfast Toyota F1 race car and the grandest vehicle line-up in the country! A lot more thrilling surprises await you at this one-of-a-kind motorshow! If you think you know what's in store for you, think again!



WINNING recipe:
Postreng Bayabas

/C4

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Chefs' kitchen must-haves

I'M STARTING to take an interest in cooking. Can you give me a list of basic kitchen equipment and must-haves. If possible, can you give a specific brand?

MAY

Presuming that you have a good stove and a great oven and you have those covered, here are my Top 10 must-haves, as well as the Top 10 of some of the most prominent chefs in the business. It would be nice to know what they can't cook without.

My Top 10 Can't-Live-Withouts are: good pots and pans (Diamond Pro, Le Creuset, Kuhn Ricon, Calphalon), Bamix immersion blender, wire whisks in all sizes, chopping block, wooden cooking utensils, heat-resistant spatula, 3D hand mixer (tried every conceivable brand from all corners of the globe but this brand has outlived my abuse, it's cheap, too!), strainers, and stove-top grillers (SMEG, Le Creuset). Preferred stove and oven brand—SMEG. Love my stove and ovens! Great after-sales service!

Gene del Prado, executive sous chef, Makati Shangri-La: knives, wire whisk, teflon pan, spatula, grill, tong, ladle (sauce and soup), fine strainer, kitchen spoon, piping bag with nozzle, and peeler. Preferred stove and oven brand—Therma or Vulcan.

J Gamboa, Cirkulo and Milky Way: Good pair of heavy-duty stainless-steel tongs (Edlund), silicon mat and hand blender with stainless end (Bamix brand). Preferred stove and oven brands—Rinnai Stoves, Rational Combi Oven.

(Speaking of J, text messages come quite often, asking for J's personal mobile number. I am bent to think that from their tone alone, the texters are just partially after his talent and mostly after his looks. Well, now chef *pogi* can be had! He's now a Globe girlfriend, and all you have to do is text CHEFJ, send to 2910 and you get a tip or a recipe from him every day! Sorry, girls and boys, he's taken!)

Norbert Gandler, International School for Culinary Arts and Hotel Management: Vollrath heavy-duty stainless-steel frying pan, Daimond Woll teflon pan, Vollrath heavy-duty stock pot, Zwilling chef knife, heavy-duty blender/food processor, wire whisk, sauce/soup ladle, Rosewood stainless-steel mesh strainer, stainless-steel angled spatula and box grater.

Gene Gonzalez, president, Center for Asian Culinary Studies: chefs knife, paring knife, Santoku knife, Joyce Chen scissors, Microplane grater zester, Kitchen Aid mixer, Le Creuset spatula, Silpat and some beautiful female inspiration. Preferred stove and oven brands—among household brands, Elba and SMEG.

Dennis Hipolito, chef/consultant: Microplane for zesting, Henckel knives, Y-shaped peeler, good cooking pots and pans (Le Creuset or All Clad), cutting boards, measuring cups (any brand as long as sturdy), glass measuring cups (two cups and four cups measures from Pyrex for measuring liquid ingredients) and measuring spoons, pepper mill (I like the one with ceramic teeth), tongs (OXO brand because of the lock by the hinge), wooden spoons. Preferred stove and oven brands—SMEG and Wolf.

Beth Romualdez, cookbook author, cooking teacher: chef's and paring knives, wire whisk, pepper mill, spatulas, wooden spoons, tongs, meat pounder, Zyliss garlic press, Moulinex food mill, salad spinner. Throw in also indispensable herbs in pots and my Calphalon pasta cooker. Preferred stove and oven brands—Russell Range, Kitchen Aid Built-in double convection and regular ovens.

Myrna Seguisundo, managing director, Restaurant 9501 of ABS-CBN, and cookbook author, "The Party Cookbook" and "Philippine Cuisine": two saute pans (8" and 10"), three saucepans (8", 10" and 12"), chef's knife (8", 10" or 12"), cleaver, two plastic chopping boards (one for meat and the other for ingredients), mixing bowl set, set of ladle, turner sauteing spoon and fork, fine mesh strainer, measuring cups for dry and liquid ingredients, blender or food processor, food dictionary to help you look up definitions of culinary terms/ingredients. Preferred stove and oven brands—any gas stove and oven.

Sourcing

Here are the best places for kitchen equipment and gadgets: Werdenberg, tel. 8403771; KLG, 8332288; Pfescorp, 5312810 or 5312131; Sen Kian Heng, 7332133 or 7332129; Bacchus (Le Creuset), 6347303 or 8181809; Cook's Exchange, 6344325; Chef's Nook, 7245812.

Strawberry Jam

May I have a recipe of strawberry jam? I like Good Shepherd but I can't possibly go there so I'd rather cook it myself.

M. GONZALES, BIÑAN

Thou shall not compete with the nuns! But here's a jam recipe that's equally good!

2 k strawberries, picked at their prime (do not use bruised or overripe berries cleaned, hulled and left whole)

KITCHEN RESCUE



Reggie Aspiras

Here's insider information on what some of the most prominent names in the local culinary scene can't cook without

- 4 c sugar
2 c water
- Combine sugar and water in a saucepan until sugar has dissolved.
 - Bring syrup to a boil, let boil for two minutes.
 - Add strawberries, 1/2 k at a time, bringing each batch to a boil, leaving fruits in the boiling syrup for one minute.
 - Remove fruit and continue process until all berries are consumed. Set aside.
 - Bring syrup to a boil, let simmer until reduced to half.
 - Put berries back into syrup, simmer 10 minutes, every so often stirring gently.
 - Cool slightly and spoon into jars.

For questions and comments, text 0917-8399888.



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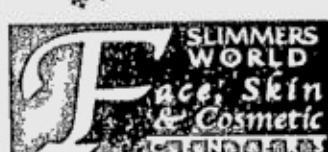
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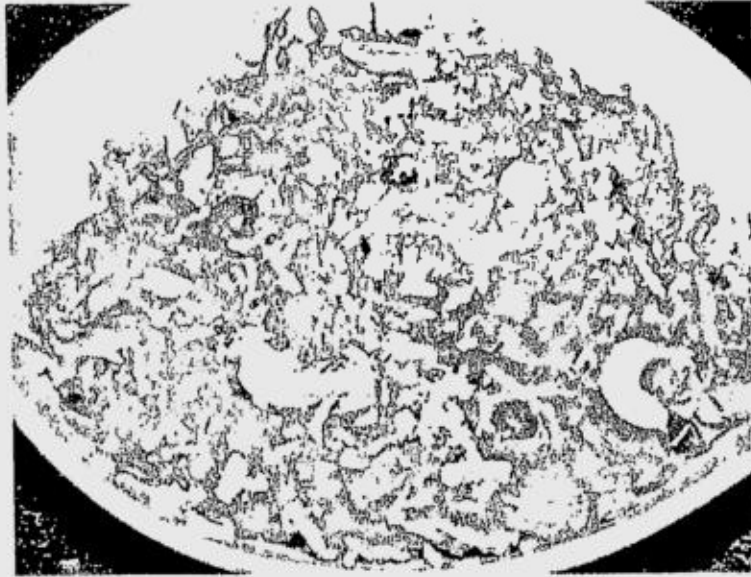
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ENJOY the crispy papad with a variety of sauces—mint sauce, mango chutney, mixed pickled chili, tamarind sauce, yogurt and onion.



SKEWERS, Indian-style



CHICKEN Biryani

Spice up your life

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

BOLLYWOOD, *noun*. 1. The informal name given to the popular Mumbai-based film industry in India. Output is about 800 films a year. 2. Famous for Masala films with all the elements to appeal to a great audience: song, dance, action, romance, comedy, etc. 3. A restaurant in Greenbelt 3 that has made Indian cuisine more accessible to food-loving Pinoyos.

Walking into Bollywood Bistro Bar transports you to a different world—a world of warmth and color, beaded curtains, patterned tiles, mural-adorned walls, screens playing one Indian movie after another, embellished coasters posing as table décor. The delicious aroma of different spices lingers in the air.

The seats invite you to sink into them and, when the food starts coming, you feel like you never want to leave.

"Bollywood offers a light touch to a very heavy meal. Traditionally, we see Indian restaurants as formal. I wanted a more relaxed atmosphere," Larry Cruz said.

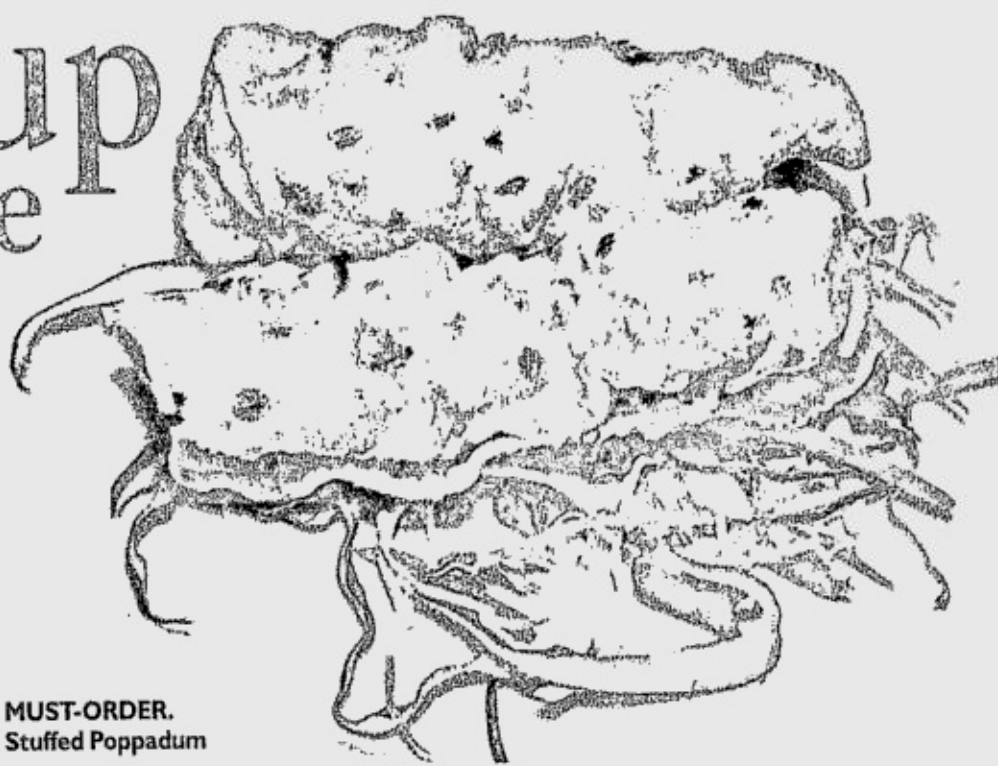
Asked why he opened an Indian restaurant, he replied, "Why not?"

Cruz, the chair/president of the LJC group who has been in the restaurant business for over 20 years, has brought good things to Filipinos with a passion for food and nightlife with his different business ventures, including Café Adriatico, Café Havana, and Ang Hang.

Bollywood, his first Indian restaurant, has started to make waves.

Cruz discovered his love for Indian food after several visits to the country. "It's comparable to European cuisine," he said.

The popularity of Indian food leaves a lot of room for growth in the country. Cruz hopes Bollywood will help bring the cuisine to the mainstream. To those having their first Indian meal, he suggests the *tandoori*, meat roasted



MUST-ORDER.
Stuffed Poppadum



MURGH Makhani

in the traditional Indian clay oven of the same name, and *naan*, a flat, leavened bread made of white flour from northwest India. "These are good entries to Indian cuisine."

Bollywood has something for everyone's palate—whether they love spicy food or not. Never leave Bollywood without trying the Stuffed Poppadum (*papad* rolls stuffed with sautéed prawns, potato, fresh coriander and flavored with mixed spices). This dish alone is good enough reason to keep coming back.

Other must-tries include the Chicken

Biryani (basmati rice cooked with chicken, freshly ground spices, saffron, nuts and raisins garnished with toasted onions), Chicken Korma (pieces of chicken cooked with an enticing cream sauce with nuts and raisins), Mutton Curry (tender chunks of mutton stewed in curry sauce with Indian spices), Murgh Makhani (north Indian dish cooked in tomato, ginger, spices and homemade yogurt), Lamb Kofta (lamb meatballs cooked in a yogurt and cream sauce with Indian spices), Chicken Curry (chicken pieces marinated in house spices cooked in an onion turmeric and coconut-based curry sauce), Vegetable Samosas (pyramid-shaped pastry stuffed with potatoes, green peas and carrots), Chicken Tikka (spring chicken marinated in yogurt and spices).

If you have room for dessert, try the Gulab Jammun (a north Indian treat—deep-fried milk dough balls, served hot or cold in a sweet saffron syrup) and Falooda (Indian *halo-halo* made of string *gulaman*, mixed nuts and flavored with cardamom spice topped with rose syrup).

Bollywood offers more than just great food. On certain nights, it has sitar players and Indian bands. On Saturdays, Bollywood trans-



MOVIE mural. An artistic interpretation of the Indian film industry

Bollywood has all the elements of a good Indian film plus one—great food

forms into a hot nightspot, with a DJ playing to a young crowd.

Fun people, great music, maybe even a little romance, comedy or action, depending on who you're with—this restaurant has all the elements of a good Bollywood film plus one—great food.

They say you'll know a Chinese restaurant is good by the number of Chinese who eat there. If the same is true for Indian restaurants, then Bollywood, with its popularity with the local Indian community, should be No. 1 on your must-visit list.

Bollywood Bistro Bar is at 3/F, Greenbelt 3. Call 7573536 or 7573537.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



BOLLYWOOD's cozy interiors

Health food, Chinese style

By Belle V. Bondoc

YOU may now give in to your wildest food cravings without worrying about gaining extra pounds. The Westin Philippine Plaza's Café Plaza Too is introducing health-oriented dishes prepared by the hotel's Cantonese chef, Siu Man Yeung, from Aug. 15-31.

All the items on the health menu, from soups to main dishes and desserts, are low-fat, low-cholesterol, low-calorie and impressively healthy.

"If you are on health-conscious diet regimes, and are so used to eating healthy, the current health menu is [perfect] for you," said Yeung.

Yeung is a culinary expert from Hong Kong. His initiation to cooking came by way of the family kitchen, where he observed his mother preparing and cooking ingredients. Later, he would learn the basics by himself and innovate on the tried-and-tested cooking practices.

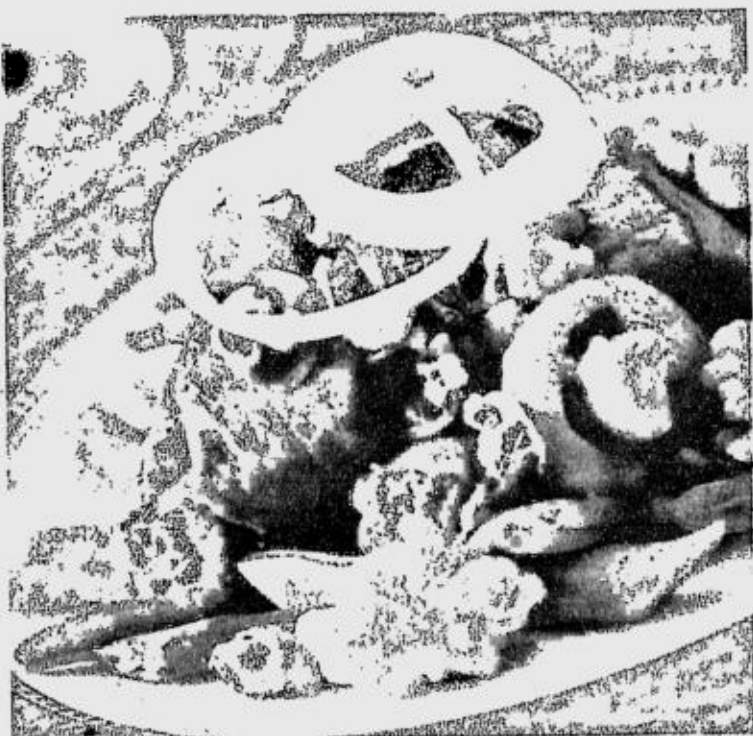
Yeung said he is influenced by traditional Chinese cooking, which has "always" emphasized health. "Whenever I execute a dish, I always consider not just the taste and flavor but the health benefits one can get from it," said Yeung. He also dips into continental and Asian methods to play variations on his cuisine.

For centuries, Chinese herbal remedies are the oldest known system of natural healing which was used successfully in China for health and well-being. Now, herbs and tonics are regarded for their culinary values as well as medical benefits. These herbs are evident in the dishes prepared by Yeung, which are said to be helpful in nourishing the body, particularly in improving blood circulation. The diet is even known to promote beauty.

Healing hotpots

The cuisine is unique. The dishes, Yeung said, are made up mainly of local ingredients from Chinatown.

The soups are flavored with herbs and simmered in exotic Chinese ingredients to re-



SAUTÉED Beef Tenderloin Cubes with Walnut



STEAMED Fish Fillet with Two Kinds of Beans



JIAN Ti Soup (Double-boiled Shark's fin Bone and Chicken with Shaseng and Solomonseal)

The Westin goes health-conscious with Cantonese offerings at its Café Plaza

talize, invigorate and strengthen the body and somehow create "wonders" for the person.

There are three main soups on the list. The Jian Ti Soup (Double-boiled Shark's fin Bone and Chicken with Shaseng and Solomonseal) is also called Soup for a Healthy Body. It is an unbelievably delicious chicken broth. It is a very light, smooth and gently seasoned soup, recommended for everyone because it helps treat cardiovascular disorders and prevent cancer.

"The Shark's fin bone is known for cancer prevention and it helps cure diabetes," said Yeung.

The Qiang Jing Soup (Double-boiled Fresh Ginseng, Chinese Wolfberry and Milk Vetch with Abalone Conch Meat Soup) is also known as Virility Soup. It is for men, Yeung explained. It helps strengthen the body in performing vigorous activities and it also promotes blood circulation. It has ginseng, the famous Chinese herb known as a potent immune system tonic; Chinese wolfberry, a medicinal herb used to strengthen muscles and bones and stimulates tissue development; and Chinese Milk Vetch known for its immunity-enhancing properties.

The Mei Yan Soup (Double-boiled Black Chicken with Coconut, Gordon Euryale and Hericium Mushroom Soup) is also known as Beautifying Soup. Specifically created for women, it has special ingredients like Gordon Euryale and Hericium Mushroom that aid digestion and help detoxify and cleanse the entire system to bring out a more radiant skin.

The main courses are all as healthy. The menu presents a range of choices from meat to poultry, noodles, seafood and vegetables. Dishes include Braised Beancurd with Minced Polonchay and Chinese Wolfberry, Sautéed Beef Tenderloin Cubes with Walnut, Sautéed Chicken with Gordon Euryale and Apple, and Steamed Fish Fillet with Kidney Beans and Black Beans.

Yeung experiments with herbs, spices, condi-

CHEF
Yeung
Siu Man



ments and other seasonings, using them in place of salt. In fact, flavoring is so good you won't notice that some of the dishes are almost saltless.

There are also healthy rice varieties to choose from such as Fried Rice with Lotus seed and Ostrich Meat, Fried Rice with Gordon Euryale and Dried Scallop and Fried Rice with Black Chicken and Walnut.

Sugar-free desserts

People with diabetes don't have to worry. For desserts, they can have a fill of chef Rolando Macatangay's sugar-free desserts, which are available until Aug. 14. The pastry chef uses Splenda, a no-calorie sweetener which tastes like real sugar but with no calories.

The mouthwatering desserts include the highly recommended Fresh Mango Cheesecakes, which is very light, with no sugar, only the natural caramel from the fruit; Dark Chocolate Almond and Cashew Nuts Cluster; Fresh Fruit Jello in Aloe Vera, Cherry White Forest Cake, Tiramisu and Mixed Berries Panacotta.

Delightful sugar-free ice creams are also part of the buffet with such flavors as mixed berries, caffè latte, vanilla, chocolate, cappuccino and green tea.

These dishes whipped up by chef Yeung are available for lunch and dinner. Call Café Plaza Too at 5515555 local 1529 or 1531.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph

The good and bad sides of eating out

TAKE a bow, Pizza Hut. Katipunan guys! Satisfied customer Lot Enriquez of Marikina has nothing but praises for you.

"I commend them for good customer service. They are all warm and friendly, from the manager, to the crew and the guard. Even though I only buy the P59 take-out pizza, they always treat me well... They treat us customers fairly. It doesn't matter if you purchase big or small (pizza). They make me feel at home and special. And what's more, they always greet customers and thank them when they leave."

Eating out, unfortunately has not been as pleasant for other consumers. A few days ago, we received this e-mail from J. G. Montero:

"While waiting for our order at a refreshment parlor in Robinson's Galleria, I watched a member of the multi-tasking crew mopping the floor. When he was done, he rinsed the mop with his bare hands in the very same sink where food was being prepared. Without bothering to wash his hands, he then started preparing the mango drink we ordered. He wore a plastic glove on his right hand, but the left was bare."

"I gave him and the cashier, a piece of my mind, (lecturing them) on hygiene and all that. But my words fell on deaf ears. I sent a text message to the cell phone number of the management (posted somewhere in the store), but received no reply."

(We forwarded a copy of the complaint to Robinson's information officer, R. C. Villegas, who promised to talk to the manage-

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron



ment about Montero's complaint.)

Hair-y experience

Another reader shares an all-familiar experience about finding a strand of hair in his food. W. Daniel wrote: "I was already halfway through my meal when I dug into my *pancit palabok* and found the long strand of hair. I presented this to the shift manager who offered to replace (my food). But I was almost done with my dinner and had somewhat lost my appetite. Aren't food servers or cooks required to wear hair nets to avoid such incidents?"

Too bad, there's not enough space for other complaints. We'll take them up some other time.

Letter from Globe

In our column last week, a letter sender complained about value added services such as advertisements and promo alerts, received by cellular phone users. Lance Martinez, Globe's head of customer service, sent the following response clarifying certain points raised by the letter sender:

"We would like to clarify the concerns the public may have regarding some of our services, namely: 1) Subscription to our Value Added Services (VAS); 2) Option to Unsubscribe to Message Alerts on advertisements and promos; and 3)

Prepaid Balance Inquiry.

"Our subscribers are only charged for VAS they have opted to have. There is no such thing as automatic subscription—silence does not mean yes. They are not charged if they do not (enroll in) a service or simply delete an invitation to subscribe."

"We have, in fact, established an Opt out measure to protect our subscribers from being (enrolled accidentally). All our broadcasts contain the closing message, 'Reply No to cancel alerts.' We also send 'opt out' instructions once a week for daily subscriptions and once a month for weekly subscriptions. These measures allow our subscribers to be in control by selecting what and when to opt out of services. Here are the ways to confirm your services:

- Text CHECK to access number (e.g. 2346) to see the list of VAS you are currently subscribed to; and

- Call 211, via Handyphone, or 7301000, via landline, to request a specific VAS for 'opting out' or not to receive message alerts on advertisements and promos.

"With regard to the charging of prepaid balance inquiry (for) calls to 222, we have published a notice to the public and announced through text broadcast that (balance inquiries through) 222 will be charged a minimal fee of P1 per inquiry effective May 13, 2005. Our competitors have been doing so since last year. On the other hand... balance inquiry by texting BAL to 222, remains free of charge."

E-mail: mvgiron07@yahoo.com.

From kebabs to 'Pinoy' salads

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will hold the following classes:

Aug. 12—Middle Eastern Food 101 (all new)—Falafel and Yogurt Dip with Pita, Beef Tagine with Couscous, Lamb and Merguez Stew with Basmati, Shish Kebabs, Fish in Vine Leaves, dessert

Aug. 13—Sea Bass—Chilean sea bass: Steamed with Hot Oil and Soy Flavored Sauce, Whole Bass in Salt Crust with Garlic Sauce, Rosemary Baked, Honey Glazed with Butter Sauce, Bass Kebabs, Sea Bass Curry, Whole Steamed Oriental Style

Aug. 15—No Ordinary Poultry (all new)—Delicious Marinated Fried Pigeon, Roasted Turkey with Sausage and Apple

Rice, Roast Duck with Sweet Potatoes and Cranberries, Cornish Hen with Garlic Glaze and Sweet Potato Risotto, Side Dishes, dessert

Aug. 17—Pinoy-inspired Gourmet Salads (all new)—Persimmon Salad with Dalandan Zest Dressing, Papaya Salad with Gambas and Calamares Panucha Dressing, Soft Shell Crab Salad with Kalamansi Aioli, Quesong Puti Tarts with Wild Mushrooms and Herbs, Quesong Puti and Goat Cheese Soufflé with Caramelized Apple and Pear Salad, Duck Salad with Quesong Puti and Raisin Bread Salad

For reservations and inquiries, call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 0917-8399888.

Embassy holds Thai food fest

THE ROYAL Thai Embassy will hold a Thai Food Festival at the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa, Aug. 12-14.

The festival aims to promote authentic Thai cuisine and restaurants in the Philippines as well as the tourism industry of Thailand. It will showcase favorite Thai foods like jasmine rice, desserts, herbal beverages and fruits like lanzones and tamarind.

Products from Thailand like handicraft and the renowned Thai silk will also be on sale. The event will also feature cooking demonstrations, Muay Thai (Thai martial arts) exhibition, cultural shows and parlor games during the event.

Thai embassy officials said the event was designed to help strengthen ties between the Philippines and their country.

Proceeds of the project will go to the Munting Kalinga Foundation that helps educate less-privileged children in Muntinlupa City.

On Aug. 14, kids from Munting Kalinga will be treated to a feast and program.

Lucky guests can win a free trip to Thailand courtesy of the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Thai Airways International.

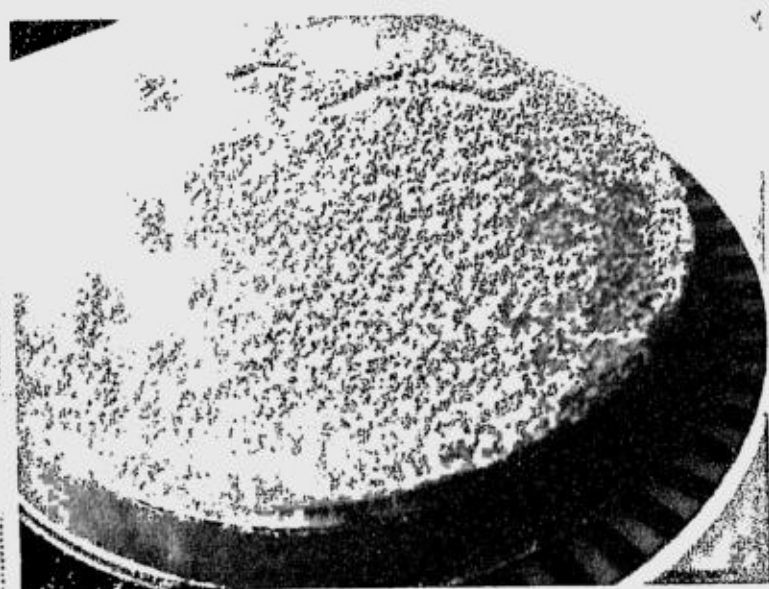
Call the Royal Thai Embassy at 8154219 to 20, or Festival Supermall at 8503514.

Festival Supermall is at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Japanese cooking class

SAN MIGUEL Pure Foods Culinary Center presents "The Art of Japanese Cuisine" with Tammy Takagi, 1:30- 4:30 p.m., Aug. 17, at the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legazpi corner Eagle Sts., Barrio Ugong, Pasig. Seminar fee is P700.

Japanese food, which has become quite popular all over the world, has been described as "a harmony of flavor, detail, color, form and balance." Call 6719876 local 402, 2771, 404 or 405. Reservation is required as slots are limited.



MANILA Diamond Hotel's Kohikan introduces Coconut Mousse Pie as its cake of the month. A stylized version of the buko pie, Coconut Mousse Pie has custard cream with young coconut meat slivers and coconut milk whipped cream, topped with roasted golden brown coconut flakes. Call 5283000.

Chef's recommendations for rainy days

THE RICHMONDE Hotel's Chef's Recommendations for August and September include Seared Pork Tenderloin on Barbecue Orange and Tamarind Flavor Sauce, Soy Marinated Grilled Chicken on Sauteed Cantonese Noodles, Sauteed Marinated Beef in Soy Sauce and Grilled Yellow Fin Tuna with Pineapple Salsa on Herbed Potatoes. The Lobby Cafe offers pastries like Cinnamon Walnut Danish, Nutty Fudge, Mango and Blueberry Muffins and Banana Walnut Bread. Call 6387777.

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Restaurant Riviera celebrates Singapore's 40th National Day until Aug. 31 with a buffet for lunch and dinner. Specialties include Laksa, Oyster Omelette, Bak Kut Teh, Char Kway Teow, Fish and Chicken Curry, Hainanese Chicken Rice and Mixed Satay. Call 8548888.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Sinfully Circles features Banana Chocolate Gateau this month. Tangy sauteed bananas nestle beneath a rich, velvety chocolate mousse in this dessert topped with slightly caramelized bananas and dollop of cream. Sinfully Circles is located inside Circles Event Cafe at the lobby. Call 8138888.

THE SULO Hotel's Cafe Paraiso and Lobby Lounge feature Lumpiang Sariwa, Pensil Malabon, Kalderetang Kambing and Kare-kare. Call 9245051 to 71.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel offers Steaks with Anchovies Butter, Lamb Chops with Mint Jelly, Ten-

derloin Tips in Red Wine Gravy, Chicken Kebabs and Porkchops with Rosemary and Garlic. Call 7718181.

VERDE Island Resort's Comida de Pastor Restaurant offers a buffet of local and international selections in an al-fresco dining area. Verde Island is located in Subukin, San Antonio, Isla Verde, Batangas City. Call 7500466/ 7500470.

DINING OUT

SEATTLE'S BEST offers America's favorite Oreo cookie in its ice-blended Javakula drink. Crushed, chewy-chocolate cookie is mixed in a mellow coffee flavor, with a smooth slide of fresh-whipped cream, topped with Oreo.

CAFFE Milano showcases steak, bread, lamb, veal, pasta and pizza. Caffe Milano is located at 555 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila.

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant offers hot soup for free. For every order of any main entrees like Oklahoma-Style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Pork Chops, Country-Style Fried Chicken, Seafood Caesar Salad, Supreme Pizza, Seafood Linguini, Lemon-Peppered Grilled Lapu-Lapu, you will get soup for free. Choose from Steak Soup, Cheese Soup, Fresh Onion Soup, Mushroom Soup or Burgoo Stew. Call 9277424/ 6875254/ 8971517.

PIZZA Hut offers appetizers, pasta, desserts, coffee concoctions and cocktail mixes without the alcohol.

ACCELERATE

the Development of your Child's Organizational Skills

Does your child have a hard time looking for something he needs? Does he often forget to do an assignment or leave it at home? If he does, there may be a need for him to develop his organizational skills. Being organized is very important, especially in school, because he needs to accomplish different tasks for different subjects every day. Learning how to put things in order will help him go through his tasks more accurately and quickly. So, how would you help your child develop his organizational skills faster?



Dr. Mel Levine

Professor, Author & Director, Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning, University of North Carolina

University of North Carolina professor and author Dr. Mel Levine says, to help your children develop their skills, you have to understand how their minds work and how they learn. Dr. Levine is one of the best-known education experts and pediatricians in the US; he has helped hundreds of children overcome their learning difficulties. He says that the mind, like the body, has different systems that are responsible for specific functions. These systems are dependent upon each other and work together to make learning successful.

Two of the eight systems of the mind related to one's organizational skills are the spatial ordering and sequential ordering systems.

The **Spatial Ordering System** helps a child identify, distinguish and compare patterns, letting him know how parts of things fit together. It also lets him remember where he puts things, helping him organize and easily identify the things he needs. On a more complex level, it enables him to think visually, converting words into pictures in his mind.

Sequential Ordering, on the other hand, helps the child deal with information that comes in a particular order. This makes him proficient in finishing tasks with detailed instructions. It also gives him the basis of time management (understanding, estimating, allocating time and being aware of its passage).

By understanding these two systems and knowing how they work together, you can help improve and develop your child's organizational skills. Together with the other six systems of the mind, they help your child develop the skills necessary for him to excel in school. Dr. Levine says you should also be aware of your child's "neurodevelopmental profile", a list of his personal strengths and weaknesses. This profile is determined by Genes, Family Life and Stress Level, Cultural Factors, Friends, Emotions, Educational

Experience and Health. Providing the best environment and encouragement will aid your child in developing a positive profile that would help him learn better.

To further help your child get ahead, make sure you provide him with the best nutrition. Give him Progress Gold. It is the only growing-up milk for kids one year and older that contains the Gold Brain and Body Formula, a breakthrough blend of 25 essential nutrients plus Preformed DHA and AA that help accelerate brain and visual development. It also has Natural Mixed Carotenoids that help strengthen immunity, and Zinc that helps promote faster growth.

Help your child accelerate his development with the right nourishment. This, along with your best care, may help your child excel in school and bring out the inherent strengths of his mind's systems.

Dr. Mel Levine will be in the Philippines on August 12-13, 2005. Be there when he conducts the "Educating All Kinds of Minds" seminar at the Every Nation Building at the Fort, Taguig. Help your child accelerate his development by understanding how his mind works and how he learns. Call 927-0143 / 926-5920 or log on to www.maximusinventus.com to register.

Reference: Levine, M. 2002 A Mind at a Time. Simon & Schuster, New York, Chapter 2, pp27-50.

Wyeth

Mukhang sausage pero hindi sausage.

Cheese na lasang hotdog pero hindi cheesedog.

Ano 'to? Eh 'di Magnolia

Cheezee Sausage!

2-in-1 sarap ng hotdog and cheese.

Share your family recipes

WIN P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts. Send us your favorite family recipe, along with a photo and a brief essay telling us (1) who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; (2) how many generations have cooked it; (3) when it is usually cooked and served; and (4) why it is special to the family. Include your

name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or hand-delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1263, or e-mailed to recipes@inquirer.com.ph.

Photo attachment to e-mailed entries must be in jpeg format. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.



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Rainy days and guavas



Our winning recipe this week proves that nothing goes to waste in a Filipino home, not even ripe fruit that have fallen on the ground

By Rose Lynn Santos-Quizon

out the maximum flavor of the dish.

I PRACTICALLY grew up in the kitchen watching my mother cook.

Following a tradition of my Kampilan ancestors, she loves to prepare on rainy days the unique *postreng bayabas*. She inherited the recipe from my paternal grandmother, and I learned it from her.

We have guava trees in our house's backyard. As young children, my siblings and I would pick up ripe guavas that fell to the ground after a heavy rain or typhoon. (I do this even now.) We would then hand the guavas over to my mother who, in no time at all, would turn them into this delicious dish.

Preparing this recipe brings back happy memories of my childhood, especially the rhythmic sound of rain falling on our kitchen roof.

My family serves *postreng bayabas* as main dish, usually with *adobong baboy* or *inihaw na dalag*, when friends or relatives from the city come to visit. It is also excellent as soup or appetizer. One family friend loves it as dessert.

According to my grandmother, the slow-fire cooking technique employed here is called "tayang-tayang" by local folks. It brings

Postreng Bayabas

Ingredients:

2 c ripe guava meat, chopped
1 head garlic, crushed
1 medium-sized onion, sliced
1 c pork liempo, cut into cubes (pre-boiled)

5 c water
1 Knorr pork cube
4 tbsp white sugar
2 tbsp cooking oil
Salt to taste

Procedure:

Peel guavas and cut in halves. Scoop out seeds and discard.

Chop guava meat finely and set aside.

Boil pork liempo until tender. Cut into cubes. Set aside.

Toast garlic in hot cooking oil until brown and crunchy. Set aside.

In the same cooking oil, sauté onion and pork liempo until light brown in color. Add the guava meat and stir for about a minute.

Pour in the water and add the Knorr pork cube. Cover.

When boiling, remove cover and reduce the heat. Add the sugar and let simmer over slow fire for about 30 minutes, stirring every now and then to prevent scorching.

When done, add salt to taste. Serve hot with toasted garlic on top.

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BreadTalk

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Chicken
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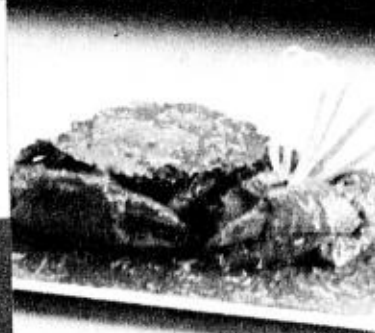
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The Heritage Hotel Manila - Restaurant Riviera - Pasay City

Promo runs from August 1-31, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTL NCR Permit No. 1868, Series of 2005.

All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.

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